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BIOGRAPHY

OF

SELF TAUGHT MEN.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

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BOSTON:
PERKINS & MARVIN, 114, WASHINGTON STREET.
1832.

Roger Sherman

Published by J. Loring Peirson & Co. Boston

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The materials of this volume were derived from a great variety of sources. The writer is indebted for some facts to correspondence. In other cases, he has obtained information by personal inquiry. He acknowledges himself to be under particular obligation to the publications of the British Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. Some of the pieces of this publication have not been republished in this country. In many cases he has altered and abridged the communications of different individuals to suit his purpose. In general, where any important sentiment is given in the words of the author, the usual marks of quotation are inserted. In the mere narration of facts, this was not thought to be necessary, except in instances of auto-biography. Whatever phraseology was found to be objectionable on the score of morality, or of good taste, has been carefully expunged. Every article, written or abridged, has been given to the printer in manuscript.

The great object of the writer has been to furnish encouragement to a very large and a very deserving class of young men in this country, who are endeavoring to rise to respectability and usefulness, by their own efforts and resources. At the same time, he trusts he has said nothing in disparagement of our public institutions, and of a regular course of education.

Should this volume be favorably received, it will be succeeded by another on a similar plan.

Boston, February, 1832.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

ROGER SHERMAN.

"The self-taught Sherman urged his reasons clear."—*Humphrey's Poems.*

Roger Sherman was born at Newton, Massachusetts, April 19, 1721. His great grandfather, Captain John Sherman, came from Dedham, in England, to Watertown, Massachusetts, about the year 1635. His grandfather, William Sherman, was a farmer, in moderate circumstances. In 1723, the family removed from Newton to Stoughton. Of the childhood and early youth of Sherman, little is known. He received no other education than the ordinary country schools, in Massachusetts, at that time, afforded. He was neither assisted by a public education, nor by private tuition. All the valuable attainments, which he exhibited in his future career, were the result of his own vigorous efforts. By his ardent thirst for knowledge, and his indefatigable industry, he attained a very commendable acquaintance with general science, the system of logic, geography, mathematics, the general principles of history, philosophy, theology, and particularly law, and politics. He was early apprenticed to a shoemaker, and he continued to pursue that occupation for some time after he was twenty-two years of age. It is recorded of him, that he was accustomed to sit at his

work with a book before him, devoting to study every moment that his eyes could be spared from the occupation in which he was engaged. During the revolutionary war, Mr. Sherman was placed on a committee of congress, to examine certain army accounts, among which, was a contract for the supply of shoes. He informed the committee that the public had been defrauded, and that the charges were exorbitant, which he proved, by specifying the cost of the leather, and other materials, and of the workmanship. The minuteness with which this was done, exciting some surprise, he informed the committee that he was by trade a shoemaker, and knew the value of every article. He was sometimes accused, but without justice, of being vain of the obscurity of his origin. From the distinguished eminence which he reached, he probably contemplated, with satisfaction, that force of mind, and that industry, which enabled him to overcome all the obstacles which encompassed his path. For the gratification, arising from such a contemplation, no one will be disposed to censure him.

When he was nineteen years of age, his father died. His eldest brother having previously removed to New Milford, in Connecticut, the principal charge of the family devolved on him. At this early period of life, the care of a mother, who lived to a great age, and the education of a numerous family of brothers and sisters, brought into grateful exercise his warm, filial, and fraternal affections. The assistance subsequently afforded by him, to two of his younger brothers, enabled them to obtain the inestimable advantages of a public education. He continued to reside at Stoughton, about three years after the death of his father, principally employed in the cultivation of the farm, and in otherwise providing for the maintenance of the family. Before he was twenty-one, he made a public profession of religion. He thus laid the foundation

of his character in piety. That unbending integrity, which has almost made his name synonymous with virtue itself, was acquired in the school of Christ and his apostles. Mr. Sherman used to remark to his family, that before he had attained the age of twenty-one years, he had learned to control and govern his passions. His success in these efforts, he attributed, in a considerable degree to Dr. Watts's excellent treatise on this subject. His passions were naturally strong, but he had brought them under subjection to such a degree, that he appeared to be habitually calm and sedate, mild and agreeable. All his actions seem to have been preceded by a rigorous self-examination, and the answering of the secret interrogatories, What is right? What course ought I to pursue? He never propounded to himself the questions, Will it be popular? How will it affect my interest? Hence his reputation for integrity was never questioned.

In 1743, he removed with the family to New Milford, a town near New Haven, Connecticut. He performed the journey on foot, taking care to have his shoe-maker's tools also transported. He there commenced business as a country merchant, and opened a store in conjunction with his elder brother, which he continued till after his admission to the bar in 1754. He discontinued his trade as a shoemaker at the time this connection was formed. In 1745, he was appointed surveyor of lands for the county in which he resided. Astronomical calculations of as early date as 1748, have been discovered among his papers. They were made by him for an almanac, then published in New York, and which he continued to supply for several successive years.

About this time a providential circumstance led him to aspire after a higher station in life. He was requested by a friend to seek for him legal advice in a neighboring town. To prevent embarrassment and secure the accu-

rate representation of the case, he committed it to paper as well as he could, before he left home. In stating the facts, the lawyer observed that Mr. Sherman frequently recurred to a manuscript which he held in his hand. As it was necessary to make an application, by way of petition, to the proper tribunal, he desired the paper to be left in his hands, provided it contained a statement of the case from which a petition might be framed. Mr. Sherman reluctantly consented, telling him that it was merely a memorandum drawn up by himself for his own convenience. The lawyer, after reading it, remarked, with an expression of surprise, that, with a few alterations in form, it was equal to any petition which he could have prepared himself, and that no other was requisite. Having then made some inquiries relative to Mr. Sherman's situation and prospects in life, he advised him to devote his attention to the study of the law. But his circumstances and duties did not permit him, at once, to follow this counsel. The numerous family, which the recent death of his father had made, in a considerable degree, dependent on him for support and education, required his constant exertions in other employments. But the intimation which he there received, that his mind was fitted to higher pursuits, no doubt induced him at that early period of life, to devote his leisure moments to those studies which led him to honor and distinguished usefulness.

At the age of twenty-eight years, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Hartwell, of Stoughton, Massachusetts, by whom he had seven children. She died in October, 1760. Two of his children died in New Milford, and two after his removal to New Haven. In 1763, he was married to Miss Rebecca Prescott, of Danvers, Massachusetts, by whom he had eight children.

In May, 1759, he was appointed one of the justices of the court of common pleas for the county. He was, for

ıy years, the treasurer of Yale College. From that itution he received the honorary degree of master of . After success, in some measure, had crowned his rts, he still continued to apply himself to his studies, ı the most unremitted diligence. Encouragement, ead of elating him, only prompted him to greater rt. In the profession which he had chosen, perhaps e than in any other, men are compelled to rely on their . resources. Such is the competition, so constant is collision of various minds, that ignorance and incom- ncy will surely be detected and exposed.

ı 1766, he was appointed a judge of the superior rt of Connecticut. In the same year he was chosen ıssistant, or member of the upper house of the legisla- . The first office he sustained for twenty-three years, last for nineteen years; after which a law was enacted lering the two offices incompatible, and he chose to tinue in the office of judge. It is uniformly acknow- ged, by those who witnessed his conduct and abilities he bench, that he discovered in the application of the ciples of law, and the rules of evidence to the cases re him, the same sagacity that distinguished him as a slator. His legal opinions were received with great rence by the profession, and their correctness was ost universally acknowledged. During the last four rs, in which he was judge, the late Chief Justice Ells- th was an associate judge of the same court; and from period of his appointment, in 1785, until the death of Sherman, a close intimacy subsisted between them. e elder president Adams remarks, that it is praise ugh to say that Mr. Ellsworth told me that he had made Sherman his model in his youth. Indeed, I never w two men more alike, except that the Chief Justice the advantage of a liberal education, and somewhat e extensive reading.

The period of our revolutionary struggle now drew near. Roger Sherman, as it might have been expected, was one of the few, who from the commencement of hostilities, foresaw what would be the probable issue. He engaged in the defence of our liberties, with the deliberate firmness of an experienced statesman, conscious of the magnitude of the undertaking, and sagacious in devising the means for successful opposition.

In August, 1774, Mr. Sherman, in conjunction with Joseph Trumbull, Eliphalet Dyer, and Silas Deane, was nominated delegate to the General Congress of the colonies. He was present at the opening of the first congress. He continued a member of this body for the long period of nineteen years, (till his death in 1793,) whenever the law, requiring a rotation in office, admitted it.

In his new post of duty, he soon acquired distinguished reputation. Others were more admired for popular eloquence, but in that assembly of great men, there was no one whose judgment was more respected, or whose opinions were more influential. His venerable appearance, his republican simplicity, the inflexibility of his principles, and the decisive weight of his character, commanded universal homage. In the fatiguing and very arduous business of committees, he was indefatigable. He was always thorough in his investigations, and all his proceedings were marked by system. Among the principal committees of which Mr. Sherman was a member, were those to prepare instructions for the army in Canada; to establish regulations in regard to the trade of the United Colonies; to regulate the currency of the country; to furnish supplies for the army; to devise ways and means for providing ten millions of dollars for the expenses of the current year; to concert a plan of military operations for the campaign of 1776; to prepare and digest a form of confederation; and to repair to head quarters at New York, and examine into the state of the army.

n the 11th of June, 1776, in conjunction with John
ms, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Robert
Livingston, MR. SHERMAN WAS APPOINTED ON THE
MITTEE TO PREPARE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPEN-
CE. The committee was elected by ballot. The
aration, as it is well known, was written by Jefferson.
t amount of influence was exerted by Sherman in
ring the measure through the congress, is not certainly
n. The records of the proceedings of that illustrious
nbly are very imperfect. John Adams says of him,
he was "one of the soundest and strongest pillars of
evolution."

hile he was performing the most indefatigable labors
ngress, he devoted unremitting attention to duties at
. During the war, he was a member of the gover-
council of safety. In 1784, he was elected mayor
ew Haven, an office which he continued to hold dur-
he remainder of his life. About the close of the war,
legislature of Connecticut assigned to a committee of
the arduous service of revising the laws of the State.
Sherman was one of this committee. In 1787, he
appointed, in conjunction with Dr. Samuel Johnson,
Mr. Ellsworth, a delegate to the General Convention,
m the constitution of the United States. Among his
scripts a paper has been found, containing a series of
sitions prepared by him for the amendment of the
rticles of confederation, the greater part of which are
porated, in substance, in the new constitution. In
debates in that convention, Mr. Sherman bore a con-
ous part. In a letter to Gen. Floyd, soon after, he
, "Perhaps a better constitution could not be made
mere speculation. If upon experience, it should be
d to be deficient, it provides an easy and peaceable
e of making amendments. But, if the constitution
ld be adopted, and the several States choose some of

their wisest and best men, from time to time, to administer the government, I believe it will not want any amendment. I hope that kind Providence, which guarded these States through a dangerous and distressing war, to peace and liberty, will still watch over them and guide them in the way of safety."

His exertions in procuring the ratification of the constitution in Connecticut, were conspicuous and successful. He published a series of papers over the signature of "Citizen," which Mr. Ellsworth says, materially influenced the public mind in favor of its adoption. After the ratification of the constitution, he was immediately elected a representative of the State in congress. Though approaching the seventieth year of his age, he yet took a prominent part in the great topics of discussion, which came before Congress.

On the 11th of February, 1790, the Quakers presented an address to the house on the subject of the "licentious wickedness of the African trade for slaves." A long and violent debate occurred on the propriety of its being referred to a committee. Some of the southern members opposed it with great vehemence and acrimony. Mr. Scott, of Pennsylvania, replied, in an eloquent appeal to the justice and humanity of the house. Mr. Sherman, perceiving that opposition would merely serve to inflame the already highly excited feelings of members, with his usual calmness, remarked that it was probable the committee would understand their business, and they might, perhaps, bring in such a report as would be satisfactory to gentlemen on both sides of the house. Mr. Sherman and his colleagues were triumphant: forty-three members voting in favor of the commitment of the memorial, and eleven in opposition.

Mr. Sherman uniformly opposed the amendments to the constitution, which were at various times submitted to the

home. "I do not suppose," said he, "the constitution to be perfect, nor do I imagine, if congress and all the legislatures on the continent, were to revise it, that their labors would perfect it." He maintained that the more important objects of government ought first to be attended to; that the executive portion of it needed organization, as well as the business of the revenue and judiciary.

In 1791, a vacancy having occurred in the senate of the United States, he was elected to fill that elevated station.

On the 23d of July, 1793, this great and excellent man was gathered to his fathers, in the seventy-third year of his age. He died in full possession of all his powers, both of mind and of body.

The most interesting lesson which the life of Mr. Sherman teaches us, is the paramount importance of religious principle. His undeviating political integrity was not the result of mere patriotism, or philanthropy. He revolved in a higher orbit. The volume which he consulted more than any other was the Bible. It was his custom to purchase a copy of the Scriptures at the commencement of every session of congress, to peruse it daily, and to present it to one of his children on his return. To his familiar acquaintance with this blessed book, much of that extraordinary sagacity which he uniformly exhibited, is to be attributed. The second President Edwards used to call him his "great and good friend, senator Sherman," and acknowledged, that, in the general course of a long and intimate acquaintance, he was materially assisted by his observations on the principal subjects of doctrinal and practical divinity. "He was not ashamed," says Dr. Edwards, "to befriend religion, to appear openly on the Lord's side, or to avow and defend the peculiar doctrines of grace. He was exemplary in attending all the institutions of the gospel, in the practice of virtue in general, and in showing himself friendly to all good men. With

all his elevation and all his honors, he was not at all lifted up, but appeared perfectly unmoved."

"That he was generous and ready to communicate, I can testify from my own experience. He was ready to bear his part of the expense of those designs, public and private, which he esteemed useful; and he was given to hospitality." What an example is here presented for the youthful lawyer and statesman. Would he rise to the most distinguished usefulness, would he bequeath a character and an influence to posterity "above all Greek or Roman fame," let him, like Roger Sherman, lay the foundations in the fear of God, and in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Another most important practical lesson which we derive from the life of Mr. Sherman, is the value of habits of study and meditation. He was not only distinguished for integrity, but for accurate knowledge of history, and of human nature—the combined fruit of reading and reflection. "He was capable of deep and long investigation. While others, weary of a short attention to business, were relaxing themselves in thoughtless inattention, or dissipation, he was employed in prosecuting the same business, either by revolving it in his mind, and ripening his own thoughts upon it, or in conferring with others." While laboriously engaged in the public duties of his station he had, every day, a season for private study and meditation.

The testimonials to his extraordinary worth have been singularly marked and unanimous.

Among his correspondents were Drs. Johnson, (of Stratford,) Edwards, Hopkins, Trumbull, Presidents Dickinson and Witherspoon. Fisher Ames was accustomed to express his opinion by saying, "That if he happened to be out of his seat, [in congress,] when a subject was dis-

mused, and came in when the question was about to be taken, he always felt safe, in voting as Mr. Sherman did, for *he always voted right.*" Dr. Dwight, while instructing the senior class at Yale College, observed, that Mr. Sherman was remarkable for not speaking in debate, without suggesting something new and important. Washington uniformly treated Mr. Sherman with great respect and attention. Mr. Macon, a distinguished senator of the United States, once remarked to the Hon. William Reed, of Marblehead, that "Roger Sherman had more common sense than any man he ever knew." The late Rev. Dr. Spring, of Newburyport, was returning from the south, while congress was in session at Philadelphia. Mr. Jefferson accompanied him to the hall, and designated several distinguished members of that body; in the course of this polite attention, he pointed in a certain direction, and exclaimed, "That is Mr. Sherman, of Connecticut, a man who never said a foolish thing in his life." Mr. Sherman was never removed from a single office, except by promotion, or by act of the legislature requiring a rotation, or rendering the offices incompatible with each other. Nor, with the restrictions alluded to, did he ever fail in his re-election to any situation, to which he had been once elected, excepting that of representative of New Haven, in the legislature of the State;—which office, at that period, was constantly fluctuating.

In closing this biographical sketch, it is proper to add that Mr. Sherman, in his person, was considerably above the common stature; his form was erect and well proportioned, his complexion fair, and his countenance manly and agreeable. In the relations of husband, father, and friend, he was uniformly kind and faithful. He was naturally modest; and this disposition, increased, perhaps, by the deficiencies of early education, often wore the appearance of bashfulness and reserve. In conversation

relating to matters of importance, he was free and communicative.

The legacy, which Mr. Sherman has bequeathed to his countrymen, is indeed invaluable. The Romans never ceased to mention with inexpressible gratitude the heroism, magnanimity, contentment, disinterestedness, and noble public services of him, who was called from the plough to the dictator's chair. His example was a light to all the subsequent ages. So among the galaxy of great men, who shine along the tracts of our past history, we can scarcely refer to one, save Washington, whose glory will be more steady and unfading than that of Roger Sherman.

HEYNE OF GOTTINGEN.

Christian Gottlob Heyne, a distinguished scholar, was born Sept. 25, 1729, at Chemnitz, in Saxony, whither his father, a poor linen weaver, had fled from Silesia on account of religious persecutions. The family were often reduced to the miseries of the lowest indigence. In the Memoirs of his own life, Heyne says, "Want was the earliest companion of my childhood. I well remember the painful impressions made on my mind by witnessing the distress of my mother when without food for her children. How often have I seen her, on a Saturday evening, weeping and wringing her hands, as she returned home from an unsuccessful effort to sell the goods which the daily and nightly toil of my father had manufactured." His parents sent him to a child's school in the suburbs of the small town of Chemnitz. He soon exhibited an uncommon desire of acquiring information. He made so rapid a progress in the humble branches of knowledge taught in the school, that, before he had completed his tenth year, he was paying a portion of his school fees by teaching a little girl, the daughter of a wealthy neighbor, to read and write. Having learned everything comprised in the usual course of the school, he felt a strong desire to learn Latin. A son of the schoolmaster, who had studied at Leipsic, was willing to teach him at the rate of fourpence a week; but the difficulty of paying so large a fee

seemed quite insurmountable. One day he was sent to his godfather, who was a baker, in pretty good circumstances, for a loaf. As he went along he pondered sorrowfully on the great object of his wishes, and entered the shop in tears. The good-tempered baker, on learning the cause of his grief, undertook to pay the required fee for him, at which Heyne tells us, he was perfectly intoxicated with joy; and as he ran, all ragged and barefoot, through the streets, tossing the loaf in the air, it slipped from his hands and rolled into the gutter. This accident, and a sharp reprimand from his parents, who could ill afford such a loss, brought him to his senses. He continued his lessons for about two years, when his teacher acknowledged that he had taught him all, which he himself knew. At this time, his father was anxious that he should adopt some trade, but Heyne felt an invincible desire to pursue his education. He had another godfather, who was a clergyman, in the neighborhood; and this person, on receiving the most flattering accounts of Heyne from his last master, agreed to be at the expense of sending him to the principal seminary of his native town of Chemnitz. His new patron, however, doled out his bounty, with the most scrupulous parsimony; and Heyne, without the necessary books of his own, was often obliged to borrow those of his companions, and to copy them over for his own use. At last he obtained the situation of tutor to the son of one of the citizens; and this for a short time rendered his condition more comfortable. But the period was come when, if he was to proceed in the career which he had chosen, it was necessary for him to enter the university; and he resolved to go to Leipsic. He arrived, accordingly, in that city, with only about four shillings in his pocket, and nothing more to depend upon, except the small assistance, which he might receive from his godfather, who had promised to continue his bounty. He

had to wait, however, so long, for his expected supplies from this source, which came accompanied with much grudging and reproach when they did make their appearance, that, destitute both of money and books, he would even have been without bread too, had it not been for the compassion of the maid-servant of the house where he lodged. "What sustained my courage in these circumstances," he remarks, "was neither ambition, nor presumption, nor even the hope of one day taking my place among the learned. The stimulus, which incessantly spurred me on, was the feeling of the humiliation of my condition—the shame with which I shrank from the thought of that degradation which the want of a good education would impose on me—above all the determined resolution of battling courageously with fortune. I was resolved to try whether, although she had thrown me among the dust, I should not be able to rise up by the vigor of my own efforts." His ardor for study only grew the greater as his difficulties increased. For six months he only allowed himself two nights' sleep in the week; and yet all the while his godfather scarcely ever wrote to him but to inveigh against his indolence,—often actually addressing his letters on the outside "*To M. Heyne, Idler, at Leipsic.*"

In the mean time, while his distress was becoming, every day, more intolerable, he was offered by one of the professors, the situation of a tutor in a family at Magdeburg. Desirable as the appointment would have been, in every other respect, it would have removed him from the scene of his studies, and he declined it. He resolved to remain in the midst of all his miseries at Leipsic. Through the favor of Providence, he was in a few weeks recompensed for this sacrifice. The same professor procured for him a situation in the university similar to the one he had refused in Magdeburg. This, of course, relieved, for

a time, his pecuniary wants; but still the ardor with which he pursued his studies continued so great, that at last it brought on a dangerous illness, which obliged him to resign his situation, and very soon completely exhausted his trifling resources, so that on his recovery he found himself as poor and destitute as ever. In this extremity, a copy of Latin verses, which he had written, having attracted the attention of one of the Saxon ministers, he was induced by the advice of his friends, to set out for the court at Dresden, where it was expected that this patronage would make his fortune; but he was doomed only to new disappointments. After having borrowed money to pay the expenses of his journey, all he obtained from the courtier was a few vague promises, which ended in nothing. He was obliged, eventually, after having sold his books, to accept the place of copyist in the library of the Count de Bruhl, with the miserable annual salary of seventy-five dollars. But he had not been idle at Leipsic. He had listened, with great benefit, to the lectures of Ernesti on the principles of interpretation; to some valuable archælogical and antiquarian lectures; and to the eloquent disquisitions of Bach on Roman antiquities and jurisprudence. At Dresden, besides performing the duties of his situation, he found time to do a little work for the booksellers. For a learned and excellent edition of the Latin poet, Tibullus, he received one hundred crowns. In this way he contrived to live, a few years, all the while studying hard, and thinking himself amply compensated for the hardships of his lot, by the opportunities which he enjoyed of pursuing his favorite researches, in a city, so rich in collections of books and antiquities as Dresden. After he had held his situation in the library for above two years, his salary was doubled; but before he derived any benefit from the augmentation, the seven years' war had commenced. Saxony was overrun by the forces of Frederick

he Great, and Heyne's place, and the library itself to hich it was attached, were swept away at the same time. He was obliged to fly from Dresden, and wandered about, or a long time, without employment. At last he was eceived into a family in Wittenberg; but in a short time, he progress of the war drove him from this asylum, also, nd he returned to Dresden, where he still had a few rticles of furniture, which he had purchased with the ittle money which he had saved while he held his place n the library. He arrived just in time to witness the bombardment of that capital, in the conflagration of which his furniture perished, as well as some property which he had brought with him from Wittenberg, belonging to a lady, one of the family in whose house he had lived. For this lady he had formed an attachment during his residence there. Thus left, both of them without a shilling, the young persons determined to share each others' destiny, and they were accordingly united. By the exertions of some common friends, a retreat was procured for Heyne and his wife in the establishment of a M. de Leoben, where he spent some years, during which his time was chiefly occupied in the management of that gentleman's property.

But Providence was now about to visit him with the smiles of prosperity. In 1763, he returned to Dresden. Some time before this the Professorship of Eloquence in the University of Göttingen had become vacant by the death of John Mathias Gessner. The chair had been offered, in the first instance, to David Ruhnken, one of the first scholars of the age, who declined, however, to leave the University of Leyden, where he had lately succeeded the eminent Hemsterhuis as professor of Greek. But happily, Ruhnken had seen the edition of Tibullus, and another of Epictetus, which Heyne had some time previously published. Ruhnken ventured to suggest to the

Hanoverian minister the extraordinary merits of Heyne, and he was accordingly nominated to the professorship. He was soon after appointed first librarian and counsellor. To discharge the functions of these posts required the most multiplied labors. He says of himself, with great candor, that, "till he was professor, he never learned the art it was his duty to teach." But he soon made himself at home in his new duties. By his lectures; by his connection with the Royal Society, founded at Göttingen by Haller; by his indefatigable participation in the Göttingen Literary Gazette; by the direction of the Philological Seminary, which, under his guidance, was a nursery of genuine philology, and has given to the schools of Germany a great number of good teachers; by all this, together with his editions and commentaries on classic authors, Heyne has deserved the reputation of being one of the most distinguished teachers and scholars, which the literary world has seen. The centre of his activity was the poetic department of classical literature. His principal work, which employed him for eighteen years, was his unfinished edition of Homer. He brought the library of Göttingen to such excellence, that it is regarded as the first in Europe, because all the departments are methodically filled. Not merely the fame of his great learning, but the weight of his character, and the propriety and delicacy of his deportment, procured him the acquaintance of the most eminent men of his time. George Forster, Huber, and Heeren became his sons-in-law. In dangerous times, the influence which he acquired, and his approved uprightness and wisdom, were of great service to the university. By his efforts the university and city were spared the necessity of affording quarters to the soldiery, while the French had possession of Hanover, from 1804 to 1805.

An attack of apoplexy terminated his life, on the 14th of July, 1802. He was in the eighty-third year of his age.

STEPHEN DUCK.

An uneducated Poet.

Stephen Duck was born at Great Charlton, a little village in Wiltshire, England, in the beginning of the last century. His parents were in the lowest rank of life; and as it was his hard hap to be complained of by the village school master for "taking his learning too fast, even faster than it could be bestowed upon him," his poor mother took him from school and set him to the plough, "lest he should become too fine a gentleman for the family that produced him." Being from his fourteenth year wholly engaged in the lowest and hardest employments of a country life, Stephen forgot almost all the arithmetic which he had learnt at school, and this made him uneasy, for he had a certain longing after knowledge. But he had no time to spare, no books, and no money to purchase any. Thus situated he worked extra hours, and so obtained extra payment, which having so earned he might fairly appropriate to the meritorious object of improving himself. So he first bought a book of vulgar arithmetic, then one of decimals, and a third upon mensuration; and these he studied in those hours which could be spared from sleep, after the labors of the day. At length, one of his acquaintance, who had been two or three years in service in London, came to reside at Charlton, and brought with him a few books, which, being fond

of reading, he had purchased in the great city. With him Stephen became intimate, and they used to read together, and talk over the points which they were thus led to think on. This was the greatest happiness of his life. Their minds were their own, neither improved nor spoiled by laying in a stock of learning. They were, perhaps, equally well inclined to learn; both struggling for a little knowledge; and like a couple of rowers on the same bottom, while they were only striving, perhaps, which should outdo his companion, they were really each helping the other, and driving the boat on the faster.

"Perhaps you would be willing to know what books their little library consisted of. Milton, the Spectator, and Telemachus, with another piece by the same hand, (the Demonstration of the Being of a God,) and Addison's Defence of Christianity. They had an English Dictionary, and a sort of English Grammar; an Ovid, of long standing with them, and a Bysshe's Art of Poetry, of later acquisition; Seneca's Morals made the name of L'Estrange dear to them; and, as I imagine, might occasion their getting his Josephus, in folio, which was the largest purchase in their collection. They had one volume of Shakespeare, with seven of his plays in it. Besides these, Stephen had read a few other books. Stephen," continues Spence, "has delighted, as far back as I can remember, in verses, and in singing. He speaks of strange emotions that he has felt on the top-performances of the little choir of songsters in a country chancel; and mentions of his first hearing of an organ as a remarkable epocha in his life."

Paradise Lost carried with it no doubt a strong recommendation in its subject, but it perplexed him, and he read it twice or thrice with a dictionary, studying it as a studious youth goes through a Greek or Latin author. The Spectator, too, which he said improved his under-

standing more than anything, taught him to appreciate some of the merits of that poem, and Spence says he could point out particular beauties, which required a "good keen eye to discover." He frequently took a volume of the Spectator with him to his work, and labored harder than any one else, like a man engaged to work by the piece, that he might honestly get half an hour, for reading one of the numbers; but by sitting down at such times incautiously, in the sweat of his brow, he injured his health. He now began to write verses, when a young Oxonian, Stanley by name, sent for him, and was so well satisfied with his conversation, as to desire that he would write to him a letter in verse. This accordingly Stephen did, much to the satisfaction of Stanley. He soon after composed "The Thresher's Labor," which is written with great fidelity, and many passages with considerable power. He began now to be so much talked of, that some knavish bookseller issued, for his own advantage, a collection of his verses, with what Stephen calls a very false account of the author, and a fictitious portrait of him, wherein he is represented with Milton in one hand, and a flail in the other, coming from the barn towards a table, on which pen, ink, and paper are lying; pigs, poultry, and reapers making up the rural accompaniments. But the Thresher's Labor had found its way to the Hon. Mrs. Clayton, a lady, who was about the queen's person: she showed it to the queen, and Caroline, with characteristic goodness, patronized the humble poet. He was invited to Windsor, by her desire, that he might be introduced to her; she settled thirty pounds a year upon him, made him one of the yeomen of the guards, and soon afterwards gave him the appointment of keeper of her select library, at Richmond, where he had apartments assigned to him, and was encouraged to pursue his studies so as to qualify himself for ordination in the Established Church. A volume of

his verses was now published by subscription. Having obtained orders, he was preferred to the living of Byfleet, in Surrey. His character, his inclination, and his abilities were alike suited to that way of life; and he is said to have been much followed as a preacher, not only while novelty and his reputation were likely to attract congregations, but as long as he lived.

His end was an unhappy one; he became insane, threw himself into the water, near Reading, in 1756, and was drowned.

JOHN JONES.

In 1827, the poet laureate, Robert Southey, while visiting with his family the springs at Harrowgate, England, received a letter from an individual, who signed himself John Jones. In this letter he says that he is a poor, humble, uneducated domestic, who having strung together a few pieces in verse, would be happy in the possession of the poet's opinion of them. The following lines were sent as a specimen.

THE RED-BREAST.

Sweet social bird with breast of red,
  How prone 's my heart to favor thee!
Thy look oblique, thy prying head,
  Thy gentle affability.

Thy cheerful song in winter's cold,
  And, when no other lay is heard,
Thy visits paid to young and old,
  Where fear appals each other bird.

Thy friendly heart, thy nature mild,
  Thy meekness and docility,
Creep to the love of man and child,
  And win thine own felicity.

The gleanings of the sumptuous board,
  Conveyed by some indulgent fair,
Are in a nook of safety stored,
  And not dispensed till thou art there.

In stately hall, and rustic dome,
  The gaily robed and homely poor,
Will watch the hour when thou shalt come,
  And bid thee welcome to the door.

The herdsman on the upland hill,
  The ploughman in the hamlet near,
Are prone thy little paunch to fill,
  And pleased thy little psalm to hear.

The woodman seated on a log,
  His meal divides atween the three,
And now himself and now his dog,
  And now he casts a crumb to thee.

For thee a feast the school-boy strews,
  At noontide, when the form's forsook;
A worm to thee the delver throws,
  And angler, when he baits his hook.

At tents, where tawny gipsies dwell,
  In woods where hunters chase the hind,
And at the hermit's lonely cell,
  Dost thou some crumbs of comfort find.

Nor are thy little wants forgot,
  In beggar's hut or crispin's stall;
The miser only feeds thee not,
  Who suffers ne'er a crumb to fall.

The youth, who strays with dark design,
  To make each well-stored nest a prey,
If dusky hues denote them thine,
  Will draw his pilfering hand away.

The finch a spangled robe may wear,
  The nightingale delightful sing,
The lark ascend most high in air,
  The swallow fly most swift on wing.

The peacock's plumes in pride may swell,
  The parrot prate eternally,
But yet no bird man loves so well,
  As thou with thy simplicity.

Southey read this poem to his party. They were pleased with the natural images and the natural feelings, which they exhibit, and a favorable answer was returned. The manuscripts of the poet were soon sent to Mr. Southey, from which he has published selections.

John Jones was born in 1774, in Newland, Gloucestershire. His father was a gardener. His mother kept a small shop in the village. John learnt his letters of an old woman. The only person in the village who taught writing at that time, was an old man, by trade a stone cutter, and he only on winter evenings, after his return from his daily labor. "To him," says John, "I went the best part of two winters, and that was the finishing of my education. At the age of ten I was engaged to drive plough at the 'squire's and at different places, and continued that kind of employment for four years; and up to this period, I do not recollect to have read in any book but the Psalter and Testament, and sometimes a chapter in the Bible, by reading verses alternately with other boys. I was very fond of reading stories, and was often affected to tears by them. In a family in which I was a servant, for some years, I had to lay the cloth for dinner, and to place everything in readiness by the time my master came home; this I used to do an hour or two before the necessary time, for there was a book-case in the dining-room, which was left open, and by this means I was enabled to

spend many a delightful hour at it. When I could not be in the dining-room, I read in the Bible below stairs, and, I believe, went regularly through it; but the history of Joseph, Ruth, and some other parts, pleasing me most, I read those passages many times over. I have seldom sat down to study anything, for in many instances when I have done so, a ring at the bell, or a knock at the door, or something or other, would disturb me, and not wishing to be seen, I used frequently either to crumple my paper up in my pocket, or take the trouble to lock it up, and before I could arrange it again, I was often again disturbed; from this I got into the habit of trusting entirely to my memory, and most of my little pieces have been completed and borne in mind for weeks before I have committed them to paper; from this I am led to believe that there are but few situations in life in which attempts of the kind may not be made under less discouraging circumstances. It affords me some little gratification to think that in the few families I have served, I have lived respected, for in none do I remember of ever having been accused of an immoral action, nor, with all my propensity to rhyme, have I been charged with a neglect of duty."

WILLIAM WHIPPLE.

The father of Whipple was a native of Ipswich, Massachusetts, and was bred a maltster. He was also, for some time, engaged in sea-faring pursuits. He married Mary, the eldest daughter of Robert Cutt. She was a lady of excellent sense, and of many pleasing accomplishments. William Whipple was born in Kittery, Maine, in the year 1730. He received his education in one of the public schools in that town, where he was taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and navigation. When this deficient course of education was completed, he left school, and immediately embarked on board of a merchant vessel, for the purpose of commencing his destined profession as a sailor. Before he was twenty-one years of age, he obtained the command of a vessel, and performed a number of voyages to Europe, and the West Indies. He was afterwards engaged in the infamous slave traffic. This circumstance in his life admits of no justification. The fact that good men formerly participated in it, only proves how much avarice hardens the human heart, and sears the natural conscience. In 1759, Mr. Whipple abandoned the sea, and engaged in mercantile business for some time, with his brother Joseph. He married his cousin, Catharine Moffat, daughter of John Moffat, Esq. a merchant of Portsmouth. At an early period of the revolutionary contest, Mr. Whipple

took a decided part in favor of the colonies, and in opposition to the claims of the parent country. So much confidence was placed in his integrity and firmness, that his fellow citizens frequently placed him in highly important offices. In January, 1775, he was chosen one of the representatives of Portsmouth, to the provincial congress, which met at Exeter. By that body he was elected one of the provincial committee of safety. In 1776, he was chosen a delegate to the General Congress, which met at Philadelphia. He continued to be re-elected for the three following years. This appointment gave Mr. Whipple the opportunity to record his name among the memorable list of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The cabin boy, who, thirty years before had looked forward to the command of a vessel, as the consummation of his hopes, now stood among a band of patriots, more illustrious than any which the world had yet seen. He was considered a very useful and active member. In the business of committees he displayed a most commendable degree of perseverance, ability, and application. In 1777, when Burgoyne was rapidly advancing from Canada, the assembly of New Hampshire was convened, and more decisive measures were adopted to defend the country. Two brigades were formed; the command of one of which was given to Gen. Stark, and of the other to Whipple. Whipple was present with his brigade at the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga. He was one of the commissioners appointed by Gates to treat with Burgoyne, and was afterwards selected to conduct the British troops to Boston.

He was accompanied on this expedition by a negro servant named Prince, whom he had imported from Africa. On his way to the army, he told his servant that if they should be called into action, he expected that he would behave like a man of courage. Prince replied, "Sir, I have no inducement to fight; but if I had my liberty I would

endeavor to defend it to the last drop of my blood." The general emancipated him upon the spot. In 1778, he accompanied Gen. Sullivan in his expedition to Rhode Island. For more than two years he was receiver of finance, a most arduous and responsible office under Robert Morris. About this period, Gen. Whipple began to be afflicted with severe strictures in the breast, which compelled him to decline any further military command. In 1782, he was appointed one of the judges of the superior court of New Hampshire, in which office he continued till his death. In November, 1785, he expired, in consequence of an ossification of the heart. He was in the fifty-fifth year of his age.

On the whole, he seems to have been a very useful man in a period abounding in distinguished talent. The variety of offices which he filled with propriety and ability, is not a little remarkable. Master of a vessel—merchant—leader of militia-men—an interpreter of the old confederation and of the laws of his native State, and a committee-man in congress. He had but little education in the schools. *He taught himself.* His powers of observation on men and things, were turned to the best account. In his manners, Gen. Whipple was courteous and affable, and he appears to have possessed an estimable character for integrity, and general morality.

ELI WHITNEY.

Mr. Whitney is well known as the inventor of the machine for cleansing upland cotton from its seeds—a machine, which has accomplished a great revolution in the agriculture and commerce of the United States. Before the invention of this machine, the seeds of the upland cotton were picked out with the hand; and to cleanse a pound was esteemed a laborious day's work. Upland cotton was not, therefore, cultivated for exportation. This machine enables one person to cleanse one thousand pounds, in a day, with great ease. The consequence has been that the cultivation of cotton has been introduced into all the southern States. In 1790, the quantity exported from the United States was only 100,000 pounds. In 1829, the value of the exports in cotton was $22,487,229. Cotton is now the staple production of the United States. If we should look at these facts in their bearing on the value of lands and slaves in the southern States, upon our rank as a maritime nation, upon the amount of the national revenue, and upon the various interests connected with them, perhaps it would appear that no invention ever produced such an astonishing change. A judge of the supreme court of the United States declared on the bench, that the benefit derived from Mr. Whitney's invention is to be estimated only by *hundreds of millions of dollars.*

When we look at the fact that the culture of the cotton plant will occupy vast regions, on this, and on other continents, where it has not yet been introduced, it will appear that Mr. Whitney was a distinguished benefactor of mankind, and that his name will be honorably associated with those of Watt, Arkwright, Fulton, and Davy.

He was distinguished on all occasions for his inventive genius. He established a manufactory of fire-arms, near the boundary of New Haven, Connecticut, when he himself had no experience in the business, and when all the workmen employed in the art were wholly unacquainted with it; none of them ever having wrought at any branch of the business. Under these circumstances, says Dr. Dwight, he was necessitated to adopt methods of his own; and, as skilful artists were not to be obtained, to devise a system, in which the more faithful and correct operations of machinery should supply the want of experience in the workmen. Hence modes of working iron, steel, and other metals, have been introduced, which are new and peculiar, and which have been found to be practically and eminently useful. Although his manufactory was a private concern, he enjoyed for twenty-six years, the uniform patronage of the national government, as well as several of the individual States. Everything was planned and executed upon the strictest principles of mathematical and mechanical science.

Though Mr. Whitney had a public education in Yale College, yet his eminent usefulness is to be mainly attributed to his own unwearied industry and unconquerable energy.

Most happily also, in all the relations of life he was an eminent pattern for imitation. In the community to which he belonged, he scarcely left behind him an individual more admired and beloved. He was ever active in promoting learning and the arts, and in forwarding every ob-

ject which was calculated to benefit or adorn society. In the full maturity of his powers, Mr. Whitney was cut off on the 8th of January, 1825, at New Haven, Ct. aged 60. He endured the disorders of the dreadful disease, which terminated his life, with astonishing fortitude and equanimity. He gave himself to his Maker, with unreserved confidence, committing to his care those who were dear to him as his own life, trusting for pardon and acceptance in the merits and sacrifice of the Great Redeemer.

ALEXANDER MURRAY.

ALEXANDER MURRAY, was born in the parish of Minnigaff, in the shire of Kircudbright, Scotland, on the twenty-second of October, 1775. His father was, at this time, nearly seventy years of age, and had been a shepherd all his life, as his own father, and probably his ancestors, for many generations had been. Alexander's mother, was also the daughter of a shepherd, and was the old man's second wife; several sons, whom he had by a former marriage, being all brought up to the same primitive occupation. His father died in 1797, at the age of ninety-one. He seems to have been possessed of considerable natural sagacity, and of some learning.

Alexander received his first lessons in reading, from his father. "The old man," he tells us, "bought him a catechism, (which, in Scotland, is generally printed with a copy of the alphabet in large type prefixed;) but as it was too good a book, for me to handle, at all times, it was generally locked up, and my father, throughout the winter, drew the figures of the letters to me, in his *written* hand, on the board of an *old wool card*, with the black end of an extinguished heather stem or root snatched from the fire. I soon learned all the alphabet in this form, and became writer as well as reader. I wrought with the board and brand continually. Then the catechism was pre-

sented, and in a month or two, I could read the easier parts of it. I daily amused myself with copying, as above, the printed letters. In May, 1782, my father gave me a small psalm book, for which I totally abandoned the catechism. I soon got many psalms by memory, and longed for a new book. Here difficulties rose. The Bible, used every night in the family, I was not permitted to touch. The rest of the books were put up in chests. I at length got a New Testament, and read the historical parts with great curiosity and ardor. But I longed to read the Bible, which seemed to me a much more pleasant book; and I actually went to a place where I knew an old loose-leaved Bible lay, and carried it away in piece-meal. I perfectly remember the strange pleasure I felt in reading the histories of Abraham and David. I liked mournful narratives; and greatly admired Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Lamentations. I pored on these pieces of the Bible in secret for many months, but I durst not show them openly: and as I read constantly and remembered well, I soon astonished all our honest neighbors with the large passages of Scripture, which I repeated before them. I have forgot too much of my biblical knowledge, but I can still rehearse all the names of the patriarchs from Adam to Christ, and various other narratives seldom committed to memory."

His father's whole property consisted only of two or three scores of sheep, and four muirland cows. "He had no debts and no money." As all his other sons were shepherds, it was with him a matter of course that Alexander should be brought up the same way; and accordingly as soon as he had strength for anything, that is, when he was about seven or eight years of age, he was sent to the hills with the sheep. He however gave no promise of being a good shepherd, and he was often blamed by his father as lazy and useless. He was not stout, and he was

near-sighted, which his father did not know. "Besides," says he, "I was sedentary, indolent, and given to books and writing on boards with coals." But his father was too poor to send him to school, his attendance upon which, indeed, was scarcely practicable, unless he boarded in the village, from which their cottage was five or six miles distant. About this time a brother of his mother's, who had made a little money, came to pay them a visit; and hearing such accounts of the genius of his nephew, whose fame was now the discourse of the whole glen, offered to be at the expense of boarding him for a short time in New Galloway, and keeping him at school there. As he tells us himself, he made at first a somewhat awkward figure on this new scene. "My pronunciation was laughed at, and my whole speech was a subject of fun. But I soon gained impudence; and before vacation in August, I often stood *dux* of the Bible class. I was in the mean time taught to write copies, and use paper and ink. But I both wrote and printed, that is, imitated printed letters, when out of school."

His attendance at school, however, had scarcely lasted for three months, when he fell into bad health, and was obliged to return home. For nearly five years after this, he was left again to be his own instructer, with no assistance whatever from any one. He soon recovered his health, but during the long period we have mentioned, he looked in vain for the means of again pursuing his studies under the advantages which he had for a short time enjoyed. As soon as he became sufficiently well, he was put to his old employment of assisting the rest of the family as a shepherd-boy. "I was still," says he, "attached to reading, printing of words, and getting by heart, ballads, of which I procured several.

About this time and for years after, I spent every sixpence, that friends or strangers gave me, on ballads and

penny histories. I carried bundles of these in my pockets, and read them when sent to look for cattle on the banks of Loche Greanoch, and on the wild hills in its neighborhood." And thus passed away about three years of his life. All this time the Bible and these ballads seem to have formed almost his only reading; yet even with this scanty library he contrived to acquire, among the simple inhabitants of the glen, a reputation for unrivalled erudition. "My fame for reading and a *memory*, was loud, and several said that I was a 'living miracle.' I puzzled the honest elders of the church with recitals of Scripture, and discourses about Jerusalem, &c." Towards the close of the year 1787, he borrowed from a friend L'Estrange's translation of Josephus, and Salmon's Geographical Grammar. This last work had no little share in directing the studies of his future life. "I got immense benefit from Salmon's book. It gave me an idea of geography and universal history, and I actually recollect at this time almost everything which it contains."

A grammar of geography was almost the first thing which James Ferguson studied; although the minds of the two students, differing as they did in original character, were attracted by different parts of their common manual; the one pondering its description of the artificial sphere, the other musing over its accounts of foreign lands, and of the history and languages of nations inhabiting them. Murray, however, learned also to copy the maps which he found in the book; and, indeed, carried the study of practical geography so far, as to make similar delineations of his native glen, and its neighborhood.

He was now twelve years of age; and as there seemed to be no likelihood that he would ever be able to gain his bread as a shepherd, his parents were probably anxious that he should attempt something in another way to help to maintain himself.

Accordingly, in the latter part of the year 1787, he engaged as teacher in the families of two of the neighboring farmers; for his services in which capacity, throughout the winter, he was remunerated with the sum of sixteen shillings! He had probably, however, his board free in addition to his salary, of which he immediately laid out a part in the purchase of books. One of these was Cocker's arithmetic, "the plainest," says he, "of all books, from which, in two or three months, I learned the four principal rules of arithmetic, and even advanced to the Rule of Three, with no additional assistance, except the use of an old copy-book of examples made by some boy at school, and a few verbal directions from my brother Robert, the only one of all my father's sons, by his first marriage, that remained with us." He borrowed, about the same time, some old magazine from a country acquaintance. "My memory now," says he, "contained a very large mass of historical facts and ballad poetry, which I repeated with pleasure to myself, and the astonished approbation of the peasants around me."

At last, his father having been employed to *herd* on another farm, which brought them nearer the village, Alexander was once more permitted to go to school at Minnigaff, for three days in the week. "I made the most," says he, "of these days; I came about an hour before the school met; I pored on my arithmetic in which I am still a proficient; and I regularly opened and read all the English books, such as the 'Spectator,' 'World,' &c. brought by the children to school. I seldom joined in any play at the usual hours, but read constantly." This second period of his attendance at school, however, did not last so long as the former. It terminated at the autumn vacation, that is to say, in about six weeks. In 1790, he again attended school, during summer, for about three months and a half. It seems to have been about

this time that his taste for learning foreign languages first began to develope itself, having been excited by the study of Salmon's Geography. "I had," he writes, "in 1787, and 1788, often admired and mused on the specimens of the Lord's Prayer, in every language, found in Salmon's Grammar. I had read in the magazines and Spectator, that Homer, Virgil, Milton, Shakespeare and Newton, were the greatest of mankind. I had been early informed, by some *elders*, and good religious people, that Hebrew was the first language. In 1789, at Drigmore, an old woman, who lived near, showed me her Psalm-book, which was printed with a large type, had notes on each page, and, likewise, what I discovered to be the Hebrew alphabet, marked, letter after letter, in the 119th Psalm. I took a copy of these letters, by printing them off in my old way, and kept them." Meantime, as he still entertained the notion of going out as a clerk to the West Indies, he took advantage of a few leisure weeks to begin the study of the French language. He used to remain in school, during the middle of the day, while his companions were at play, and compare together the different grammars used in the class.

"About the 15th of June," says he, "Kerr, one of my class fellows, told me that he had once learned Latin for a fortnight, but had not liked it, and still had the Rudiments beside him. I said, Do lend me them. I wish to see what the nouns and verbs are like, and whether they resemble our French. He gave me the book. I examined it for four or five days, and found that the nouns had changes on the last syllables, and looked very singular. I used to repeat a lesson from the French Rudiments every forenoon in school. On the morning of the midsummer fair of Newton Stewart, I set out for school, and accidentally put into my pocket the Latin Grammar instead of the French Rudiments. On an ordinary day, Mr. Cramond

would have chid me for this; but on that festive morning he was *mellow*, and in excellent spirits—a state not good for a teacher, but always desired in him by me, for then he was very communicative. With great glee, he replied, when I told him my mistake and showed him the Rudiments, 'Gad, Sandy, I shall try thee with Latin;' and accordingly read over to me no less than two of the declensions. It was his custom with me to permit me to get as long lessons as I pleased, and never to fetter me by joining me to a class. There was, at that time, in the school, a class of four boys, advanced as far as the pronouns in Latin Grammar. They ridiculed my separated condition. But before the vacation in August, I had reached the end of the Rudiments, knew a good deal more than they, by reading at home the notes on the foot of each page, and was so greatly improved in French, that I could read almost any French book at opening of it. I compared French and Latin, and riveted the words of both in my memory by this practice. When proceeding with the Latin verbs, I often sat in the school all mid-day, and pored on the page of Robert Cooper's (another of his schoolfellows) Greek Grammar—the only one I had ever seen. He was then reading Livy, and learning Greek. By help of his book I mastered the letters, but I saw the sense of the Latin rules, in a very indistinct manner. Some boy lent me an old Corderius, and a friend made me a present of Eutropius. There was a copy of Eutropius in the school, which had a literal translation. I studied this last with great attention, and compared the English and Latin. When my lesson was prepared, I always made an excursion into the rest of every book; and my books were not like those of other schoolboys, opened only in one place, and where the lesson lay."

All this was the work of about two months and a half before the vacation and a fortnight after it. During the

winter he employed every spare moment in pondering upon some Latin books. "I literally read," says he, "Ainsworth's Dictionary throughout. My method was to revolve the leaves of the letter A, to notice all the principal words and their Greek synonymes, not omitting a glance at the Hebrew; to do the same by B, and so on through the book. I then returned from X and Z, to A; and in these winter months I amassed a large stock of Latin and Greek vocables. From this exercise I took to Eutropius, Ovid, and Cæsar, or at times, to Ruddiman's Grammar. Here I got another book, which from that time has influenced and inflamed my imagination. This was Paradise Lost, of which I had heard, and which I was eager to see. I cannot describe the ardor, or various feelings, with which I read, studied, and admired this *first-rate* work. I found it as difficult to understand as Latin, and soon saw that it required to be *parsed*, like that language. I account my first acquaintance with Paradise Lost an era in my reading." The next summer was spent still more laboriously than the preceding. He again attended school, where he found a class reading Ovid, Cæsar, and Virgil. "I laughed," says he, "at the difficulty with which they prepared their lessons; and often obliged them by reading them over to assist the work of preparation." He employed his time at home in almost incessant study. "My practice was," he remarks, "to lay down a new and difficult book after it had wearied me; to take up another, then a third, and to resume this rotation frequently and laboriously. I always strove to seize the sense; but when I supposed that I had succeeded, I did not weary myself with analyzing every sentence." Having introduced himself to Mr. Maitland, the clergyman of the parish, by writing letters to him in Latin and Greek, he obtained from that gentleman a number of classical books, which he read with great diligence. He was soon

so privileged as to obtain a copy of a Hebrew Grammar, and of the Hebrew Bible. "I made good use," says he, "of this loan; I read the Bible throughout, and many passages and books of it a number of times." It would appear, that he had actually made himself familiar, and that chiefly by his own unassisted exertions, with the French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, and perused several of the principal authors in all of them, within about a year and a half from the time when they were all entirely unknown to him; for it was at the end of May, 1790, that he commenced, as we have seen, the study of French; and all this work had been done by the end of November, in the year following. There is not, perhaps, on record, a more extraordinary instance of youthful ardor and perseverance. It may serve to show what is possible to be accomplished.

He was again engaged in teaching during the winter, and received, as he states, for his labors, about thirty-five or forty shillings. Every spare hour was devoted to the study of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and French. In the summer of 1792, he returned to school, for the last time. The different periods of his school attendance, added together, make about *thirteen months*, scattered over the space of nearly eight years. Having obtained a copy of Bailey's Dictionary, he found in it the Anglo-Saxon alphabet, and many words in the same dialect. This was his introduction to the study of the northern languages. He also made himself acquainted with many Welsh phrases, from a small religious treatise in the language, without any dictionary or grammar. This was done by minute observation and comparison of words, terminations, and phrases. He also made himself acquainted with the Arabic, and Abyssinian alphabets. He was also guilty of writing several thousand lines of an epic poem, "which was not without obligations to Ossian, Milton, and Homer."

Before he completed the seventh book, he threw the unfinished epic into the fire.

Murray was now in his nineteenth year. His most intimate school companion had gone to the university, for which, no doubt, Murray felt that he was far better qualified, if his utter want of resources had not opposed an insurmountable barrier. He had happened to purchase a volume of the manuscript lectures of a German professor, on Roman literature, written in Latin. Having translated these lectures, he carried his translation to Dumfries, but neither of the two booksellers would print them. He then concluded to print some poems by subscription. From this design he was fortunately induced to depart, by the advice of the celebrated Robert Burns. "Burns," says he, "treated me with great kindness, and told me if I could get out to college without publishing my poems, it would be much better, as my taste was young, and not formed, and I should be ashamed of my productions, when I could write and judge better."

It so happened, that there was, in the neighborhood, an itinerant tea-merchant, by the name of M'Harg, who knew Murray well, and had formed so high an idea of his genius and learning, that he was in the habit of sounding his fame wherever he went. Among others to whom he spoke of him, was Mr. James Kinnear, of Edinburgh, then a journeyman printer in the king's printing office. Mr. Kinnear, with a zeal which does him great credit, immediately suggested that Murray should transmit an account of himself, and some evidences of his attainments, to Edinburgh, which he undertook to lay before some of the literary men of that city. This plan was adopted; Murray was examined by the Principal, and several of the Professors. He so surprised them by the extent and accuracy of his acquaintance with the languages, that measures for his admission to the university, and his maintenance, were

immediately taken. These arrangements were principally effected by the exertions of Principal Baird. His ardent and most efficient patronage of one, thus recommended to him only by his deserts, and his need of patronage, entitles him to the lasting gratitude of all the friends of learning. Murray was, indeed, soon able to support himself. All his difficulties may be said to have been over as soon as he found his way to the university.

For the next ten or twelve years of his life, he resided principally at Edinburgh. *No man, that ever lived, probably, not excepting Sir William Jones himself, has prosecuted the study of languages to such an extent as Murray.* By the end of his short life, scarcely one of the oriental or northern tongues remained uninvestigated by him, so far as any sources for acquiring a knowledge of them were accessible. Of the six or seven dialects of the Abyssinian or Ethiopic language, in particular, he made himself much more completely master, than any European had been before. This led to his being selected by the booksellers, in 1802, to prepare an edition of Bruce's Travels, which appeared in 1805, in seven volumes octavo, and at once placed him in the first rank of the oriental scholars of the age. In 1806, he left Edinburgh, in order to officiate as clergyman in the parish of Urr, in Dumfrieshire. All his leisure moments were devoted to the composition of his stupendous work on the languages of Europe.

In 1812, the professorship of oriental languages in the university of Edinburgh, became vacant. Mr. Murray's friends immediately seized the opportunity of endeavoring to obtain for him the situation, of all others, which he seemed destined to fill. The contest was eventually carried on between Murray and a single opponent. The result was very doubtful, as the election depended on the town council, a corporate body of thirty-three individuals. Extraordinary exertions were made by the friends of both

candidates. Mr. Salt, the distinguished orientalist, state that Mr. Murray was *the only man in the British Domi ions*, in his opinion, capable of translating an Ethiopi letter, which he had brought into the country. Amon those who exerted themselves in his behalf, were Dr. Jame Gregory, Professors Leslie, Playfair, Dugald Stewart, M Jeffrey, Sir Walter Scott, &c. Well was Mr. Murra entitled to say, before he learnt the result of the election "If the efforts of my friends have been exerted for an un successful candidate, they will not be forgotten, *for we have perished in light.*" He was elected by a majority o two votes. On the 31st of October, Mr. Murray entered on the discharge of his duties, though alas, near the grave His excessive labors had prostrated his strength. On th 13th of April he retired to the bed from which he neve rose; before the close of another day, he was among th dead. He was in the thirty-eighth year of his age.

His History of European Languages, though left by hi in a very imperfect state, is still a splendid monument o his ingenuity and erudition.

STEPHEN HOPKINS.

Stephen Hopkins was born in that part of the then town of Providence, R. I., which now forms the town of Scituate, on the seventh of March, 1707. His great-grandfather, Thomas Hopkins, was one of the primitive settlers of Providence. With the first dawnings of active life, Stephen Hopkins was esteemed for his worth, and his regular and useful habits. As an evidence of the propriety of his conduct when only nineteen years of age, his father gave him a deed of gift for seventy acres of land, and his grandfather bestowed on his "loving grandson," an additional tract of ninety acres. He received nothing more than a plain country education, by which he acquired an excellent knowledge of penmanship, and became conversant in the practical branches of the mathematics, particularly surveying. Being the son of a farmer, he continued the occupation of his father, after the death of the latter, and, in 1731, increased his estate in Scituate, by the purchase of adjoining lands. He continued this mode of life until his removal to Providence, in 1748, when he sold his farm, and built a mansion in that town, in which he continued to reside until his death.

In March, 1731–2, Mr. Hopkins made his first appearance in the public service in the humble station of town-clerk of Scituate, from which he rose through almost every

gradation of office to the highest dignity of the State. In May, 1739, he was appointed chief justice of the court of common pleas. He was extensively employed, till an advanced age, in the business of surveying lands. The nicety of his calculations is attested by the following circumstances. In taking the survey of a tract of land, he passed over a plain thickly set with shrubbery. Soon after, he found that his watch, which cost twenty-five guineas in London, was missing. Supposing that the chain had become entangled in the bushes, and the watch thereby pulled from his pocket, he set the course back, and found it hanging on a bush.

In May, 1751, he was appointed, for the fourteenth time, a representative in the assembly. In May, 1756, he was chosen Governor of the State, and continued to occupy this station, at intervals, for seven years.

In 1767, when the politics of the colony were carried to a great excess, Mr. Hopkins magnanimously retired from his office, and a third person was elected. By this measure harmony was, in a great degree, restored.

When the difficulties between the colonies and Great Britain began to grow alarming, Gov. Hopkins took an active, early, and determined part in favor of the colonies. In August, 1774, in connection with the Hon. Samuel Ward, he was appointed to represent Rhode Island, in the general congress.

In the same year, Mr. Hopkins was a member of the assembly of the State. Principally by his influence and exertions, an act was passed, prohibiting the importation of negroes into the colony. In the year before, he emancipated a number of people of color, whom he had held as slaves.

In May, 1776, Mr. Hopkins was, for the third time, elected to congress. His name is attached to the Declaration of Independence. His signature indicates, on the

parchment, a very tremulous hand, and is in perfect contrast to that of the President, John Hancock; this was caused by a nervous affection, with which he had been for many years afflicted, and which compelled him, when he wrote at all, to guide his right hand with his left. He discharged his public duties with great ability and faithfulness. Mr. Hopkins was one of those strong-minded men, who, by indefatigable personal effort, overcome the deficiencies of early education. A common country school, at that period, afforded little more than a knowledge of reading and writing. Upon this foundation, Mr. Hopkins established a character for literature. It is stated that he perused the whole of the great collection of ancient and modern history, compiled about a half century since, by some distinguished scholars in Europe, and that he also read Thurtow's collection of State Papers. As an instance of the retentiveness of his memory, it is mentioned that Mr. Hopkins, on one occasion, sat down and made out his account, as the owner of a vessel, without any reference whatever to his books, though many small items were necessarily included. He was esteemed as an excellent mathematician. He was one of the principal observers, on the celebrated transit of Venus, over the Sun's disc, in June, 1769. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, and, for many years, chancellor of the College of Rhode Island.

In his personal and domestic character, he was an eminent pattern of kindness and affability. A visit, which Gen. Washington made, unattended, to Gov. Hopkins, is stated, by a living witness, to have strongly exhibited the simple, easy, and artless manners of those illustrious men. Mr. Hopkins died calmly, on the 13th of July, 1785, in the 79th year of his age.

PROFESSOR LEE.

Of the attainments and character of this extraordinary man, we can furnish but a very imperfect outline. Even the year of his birth we have not been able to ascertain. His native place is Longnor, a small village, eight miles from Shrewsbury, England. The only education which he received was that of a village school, where nothing more was taught than reading, writing, and arithmetic. This school he left at twelve years of age, to learn the trade of a carpenter and builder, under the care of an ingenious and respectable relative, Mr. Alderman Lee, of Shrewsbury. Here he underwent great hardships. It was not till he was about seventeen years of age that he first conceived the idea of studying a foreign language. His application to the Latin tongue, the first which he acquired, originated in his inability to understand that language, as quoted in English authors. Poverty obstructed his progress, but did not prevent it. A thirst for information created economy; and out of the scanty pittance of his weekly earnings, he purchased, at a book stall, a volume, which, when read, was exchanged for another; and, so by degrees, he advanced in knowledge. Oppressed with cares, without any living assistant whatever, without much stimulus either from hope or fear, seeking concealment rather than the smile of approbation,

and very sc n supplied with the necessary materials, he still pressed on in his course. He had not the privilege of balancing between reading and relaxation; he had to pass from bodily fatigue to mental exertion. During six years, previous to his twenty-fifth year, he omitted none of the hours usually appropriated to manual labor; he retired to rest, regularly, at 10 o'clock at night. He also suffered, during this time, from a disorder in his eyes. As his wages increased, and thereby his abilities to make larger purchases, he attended to the Greek, Hebrew, Chaldee, and Syriac tongues. The loss, by fire, of the tools of his trade, blasted his earthly prospects in that direction, and led him to consider how far his literary acquirements might be employed for the support of himself, and of the partner, whom he had recently married. His situation being made known to the Reverend Archdeacon Corbett, of Shrewsbury, that liberal and enlightened clergyman afforded him, not only immediate aid, but a happier introduction to his favorite pursuits. He now exchanged his carpenter's shop for the superintendency of a charity school. Here, however, his hours were not much more at his own disposal. It was about this time that that well known and highly respected oriental scholar, Dr. Jonathan Scott, Persian Secretary to Hastings, Governor General of India, furnished Mr. Lee with an Arabic Grammar, and he had then, for the first time in his life, the pleasure of conversing upon the study in which he was engaged; and it is to this auspicious circumstance, improved, as it was, by the wonderful proficiency of Mr. Lee, on the one hand, (for in a few months, he was capable of reading, writing, and composing in both Arabic and Persic,) and to the unremitting kindness of Dr. Scott, on the other, that we may attribute Mr. Lee's subsequent engagement with the Church Missionary Society, as Orientalist, his admission at Queen's College, Cambridge,

and his ordination as a minister of the Established Church. At the age of thirty-one years, fourteeen from the time he had opened a Latin Grammar, he had actually himself *taught seventeen* different languages; viz. Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Samaritan, Arabic, Persic, Hindostanee, French, German, Italian, Ethiopic, Coptic, Malay, Sanscrit, and Bengalee. When Mr. Lee entered at Cambridge, he was unacquainted with the mathematics; but in one fortnight, he qualified himself to attend a class which had gone through several books in Euclid; and he soon after discovered an error, in the Spherical Trigonometry, usually bound up with Simpson's Euclid, the fourteenth proposition of which Mr. Lee disproved. Simpson's Edition of Euclid is a text book at both Universities, and is the only one usually put into the hands of students, and to which the lectures of the tutors apply. Before he went to college he was conversant with the works of Plato, had made translations into English blank verse from the works of Boethius; and he went through the Golden Verses, bearing the name of Pythagoras. He contented himself with a competent knowledge of mathematics, lest further attention to that seducing science should interfere with those studies in which the highest interests of mankind are involved. He has exhibited a most laudable desire to know the word of God himself, and to impart it to others. The following are some of his efforts for the spiritual good of mankind.

The Syriac New Testament, edited by Mr. Lee, and published, is not a continuation of that begun by Dr. Buchanan; but an entire new work, for which Mr. Lee collated three ancient Syrian MSS., the Syrian Commentary of Syrius, and the texts of Ridley, Jones, and Wetstein.

An edition of the Malay New Testament, from the

Dutch edition of 1733; the Old Testament has since been published.

An enlarged and corrected edition of Mr. Martyn's Hindostanee Prayer Book, in conjunction with Mr. Corrie.

A Tract translated into Persian and Arabic, and printed, entitled "The way of Truth and Life," for the use of Mohammedans.

A Malay Tract, for the London Missionary Society; and some Tracts in Hindostanee, for the Society for instructing the Lascars.

A Tract in Arabic, on the new system of education, written by Dr. Bell, and first translated by Michael Sabag, for the Baron de Sacy of Paris.

Dr. Scott having translated the service for Christmas day from the Prayer Book of the Church of England, into Persic, Mr. Lee has added to it the rest of the Liturgy.

A new Translation of the Old Testament into Persian, in conjunction with Mirza Khaleel.

An Hindostanee New Testament.

He was some time since preparing an Ethiopic Bible and other works. Mr. Lee has also made a new fount of letter for Hindostanee and Persian printing; and a new fount for an edition of the Syriac Old Testament, for which he collated nine ancient MSS. and one ancient commentary. He has also published in Persian and English the whole controversy of Mr. Martyn with the Persian literati, with considerable additions of his own.

On a certain occasion, a Memoir of Mr. Henry Kirke White was lent to him; Mr. Lee returned it shortly after with a Latin Poem in praise of Mr. White, a dialogue in Greek on the Christian religion, and a pious effusion in Hebrew; all compiled by himself, when he was upon per-

manent duty as a member of the local militia for the county. He taught himself to play upon the flute, with almost intuitive readiness. When the Shrewsbury volunteers were raised, he qualified himself, with almost equal readiness, to be one of their military band, all which time he was a member of a ringing society, and also gave lectures upon Gothic architecture. He was no sooner in holy orders than he accepted invitations to preach to the largest congregations. He manifested in the pulpit the ease and self-possession of one long used to the station. Notwithstanding these high attainments, he is a very humble and unassuming man. The resources of his mind are unapparent till called out. He does not seek refined society, but mingles in it, when invited, without effort or embarrassment; and without losing any of his humility, sustains his place in it with ease and independence. His sermons are said to exhibit an air of logical dryness, unfavorable to the unction which should pervade pulpit exercises.

Sometime in the year 1819, on the resignation of Rev. J. Palmer, Mr. Lee was elected Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, and not having been at college the usual time for taking the degree requisite to standing for the chair, a grace passed the senate of the University to supplicate for a mandamus, which was granted by his Majesty. Most honorable and ample testimonials were given by Lord Teignmouth, Dr. Scott, Mohammed Sheeraz, a learned Persian, Alexander Nicol, librarian of the Bodleian library, Oxford, Mirza Khaleel, a learned Persian, Dr. Wilkins, of the East India-house Library, and others. Mr. Lee has lately been chosen to succeed Dr. Lloyd, as Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge. He has published one edition of an Hebrew Grammar, and has another in the press, as also an Hebrew

Lexicon. A work on the interpretation of Scripture generally, and of prophecy in particular, has lately appeared from his pen. He has issued a prospectus of an extensive course of lectures on Hebrew Literature and Philology.

WILLIAM GIFFORD.

WILLIAM GIFFORD was born in Ashburton, Devonshire, England, in April, 1757. His father was a seaman, and was, for some time, engaged in the service of his country, as the second in command of a large armed transport. His manner of life was very dissipated. An attempt to excite a riot in a Methodist chapel was the occasion of his being compelled to flee from the country. His mother was the daughter of a carpenter. Her resources were very scanty. They arose from the rent of three or four small fields, which had belonged to her husband's father. "With these, however," says Gifford, "she did what she could for me; and as soon as I was old enough to be trusted out of her sight, sent me to a schoolmistress of the name of Parret, from whom, in due time, I learned to read. I cannot boast much of my acquisitions at this school; they consisted merely of the contents of the 'Child's Spelling Book;' but from my mother, who had stored up the literature of a country town, which about half a century ago, amounted to little more than what was disseminated by itinerant ballad singers, or rather readers, I had acquired much curious knowledge of Catskin, and the Golden Bull, and the Bloody Gardener, and many other histories equally instructive and amusing." Young Gifford's father returned from sea in 1764. He had

acquired considerable property, but his habits of dissipation were such that he soon lost nearly the whole of it. He commenced business as a glazier and house-painter. William, now about eight years old, was put to a free school, to learn to read and write and cypher. Here he continued three years, "making most wretched progress," when his father fell sick and died. He died of a ruined constitution, induced by habits of drinking. Unfortunately, the mother of William, in order to support her two children, determined to prosecute her husband's business; for which purpose she engaged a couple of journeymen, who, finding her ignorant of every part of it, wasted her property and embezzled her money. What the consequence of this double fraud would have been, there is no opportunity of knowing, as, in somewhat less than a twelvemonth, she followed her husband to the grave. "She was," says her affectionate son, "an excellent woman, bore my father's infirmities with patience and good humor, loved her children dearly, and died at last, exhausted with anxiety and grief, more on their account than on her own."

"I was not quite thirteen when this happened; my little brother was hardly two; and we had not a relation nor a friend in the world." His brother was now sent to the work-house, and he was himself taken home to the house of a person named Carlile, who was his godfather, and had seized upon whatever his mother had left, under the pretence of repaying himself for money which he had advanced to her. By this person, William, who had before learned reading, writing, and a little arithmetic, was sent again to school, and was beginning to make considerable progress in the last branch of study; but in about three months his patron grew tired of the expense, and took him home with the view of employing him as a ploughboy. An injury, however, which he had received some years before, on his breast, was found to unfit him for this species

of labor; and it was next resolved that he should be sent out to Newfoundland, to assist in a storehouse. But upon being presented to the person who had agreed to fit him out, he was declared to be "too small"—and this scheme had also to be abandoned. "My godfather," says he, "had now humbler views for me, and I had little heart to resist anything. He proposed to send me on board one of the Torbay fishing boats. I ventured, however, to remonstrate against this, and the matter was compromised, by my consenting to go on board a coaster. A coaster was speedily found for me at Brixham, and thither I went, when a little more than thirteen."

In this vessel he remained for nearly a twelvemonth. "It will be easily conceived," he remarks, "that my life was a life of hardship. I was not only a ship-boy on the 'high and giddy mast,' but also in the cabin, where every menial office fell to my lot; yet, if I was restless and discontented, I can safely say it was not so much on account of this, as of my being precluded from all possibility of reading; as my master did not possess, nor do I recollect seeing, during the whole time of my abode with him, a single book of any description, except the 'Coasting Pilot.'"

While in this humble situation, however, and seeming to himself almost an outcast from the world, he was not altogether forgotten. He had broken off all connection with Ashburton, and where his godfather lived; but the "women of Brixham," says he, "who travelled to Ashburton twice a week with fish, and who had known my parents, did not see me without kind concern, running about the beach in a ragged jacket and trowsers." They often mentioned him to their acquaintances at Ashburton, and the tale excited so much commiseration in the place, that his godfather at last found himself obliged to send for him home. At this time he wanted some months of fourteen.

"After the holidays," continues the narrative, "I returned to my darling pursuit—arithmetic; my progress was now so rapid, that in a few months I was at the head of the school, and qualified to assist my master, Mr. E. Furlong, on any extraordinary occasion. As he usually gave me a trifle, at such times, it raised a thought in me that, by engaging with him as a regular assistant, and undertaking the instruction of a few evening scholars, I might, with a little additional aid, be enabled to support myself. I had besides another object in view. Mr. Hugh Smerdon, my first master, was now grown old and infirm; it seemed unlikely that he should hold out above three or four years; and I fondly flattered myself that, notwithstanding my youth, I might possibly be appointed to succeed him. I was in my fifteenth year when I built these castles; a storm, however, was collecting, which unexpectedly burst upon me, and swept them all away.

"On mentioning my little plan to Carlile, he treated it with the utmost contempt; and told me, in his turn, that, as I had learned enough, and more than enough at school, he must be considered as having fairly discharged his duty (so indeed he had); he added, that he had been negociating with his cousin, a shoemaker of some respectability, who had liberally agreed to take me without fee, as an apprentice. I was so shocked at this intelligence, that I did not remonstrate; but went in sullenness and silence, to my new master, to whom, on the 1st of January, 1772, I was bound till I should attain the age of twenty-one."

Up to this period his reading had been very limited; the only books he had perused, beside the Bible, with which he was well acquainted, having been a black letter romance called Parismus and Parismenes, a few old magazines, and the Imitation of Thomas á Kempis. "As I hated my new profession," he continues, "with a perfect hatred, I made no progress in it, and was consequently little

regarded in the family, of which I sank, by degrees, into the common drudge; this did not much disquiet me, for my spirits were now humbled. I did not, however, quite resign my hope of one day succeeding to Mr. Hugh Smerdon, and therefore secretly prosecuted my favorite study, at every interval of leisure. These intervals were not very frequent; and when the use I made of them was found out, they were rendered still less so. I could not guess the motives for this at first, but at length I discovered that my master destined his youngest son for the situation to which I aspired.

"I possessed, at this time, but one book in the world; it was a treatise on algebra, given to me by a young woman who had found it in a lodging-house. I considered it as a treasure; but it was a treasure locked up; for it supposed the reader to be well acquainted with simple equations, and I knew nothing of the matter. My master's son had purchased 'Fenning's Introduction;' this was precisely what I wanted—but he carefully concealed it from me, and I was indebted to chance alone for stumbling upon his hiding place. I sat up for the greatest part of several nights successively, and, before that he suspected that his treatise was discovered, had completely mastered it; I could now enter upon my own, and that carried me pretty far into the science. This was not done without difficulty. I had not a farthing on earth, nor a friend to give me one; pen, ink, and paper, therefore, (in despite of the flippant remark of Lord Orford,) were for the most part as completely out of my reach, as a crown and sceptre. There was, indeed, a resource; but the utmost caution and secrecy were necessary in applying to it. I beat out pieces of leather as smooth as possible, and wrought my problems on them with a blunted awl; for the rest, my memory was tenacious, and I could multiply and divide by it to a great extent."

No situation, it is obvious, could be more unfavorable for study than this; and yet we see how the eager student succeeded in triumphing over its disadvantages, contriving to write and calculate even without paper, pens, or ink, by the aid of a piece of leather and a blunted awl. Where there is a strong determination to attain an object, it is generally sufficient of itself to create the means; and almost any means are sufficient.

At last, however, Gifford obtained some alleviation of his extreme poverty. He had scarcely, he tells us, known poetry even by name, when some verses, composed by one of his acquaintances, tempted him to try what he could do in the same style, and he succeeded in producing a few rhymes. As successive little incidents inspired his humble muse, he produced several more compositions of a similar description, till he had collected about a dozen of them. "Certainly," says he, "nothing on earth was ever so deplorable;" but such as they were, they procured him not a little fame among his associates, and he began at last to be invited to repeat them in other circles. "The repetitions of which I speak," he continues, "were always attended with applause, and sometimes with favors more substantial; little collections were now and then made, and I have received sixpence in an evening. To one who had long lived in the absolute want of money, such a resource seemed a Peruvian mine. I furnished myself, by degrees, with paper, &c. and what was of more importance, with books of geometry, and of the higher branches of algebra, which I cautiously concealed. Poetry, even at this time, was no amusement of mine; it was subservient to other purposes; and I only had recourse to it when I wanted money for my mathematical pursuits."

But even this resource was soon taken from him. His master, having heard of his verse-making, was so incensed both at what he deemed the idleness of the occupation,

and especially at some satirical allusions to himself, or his customers, upon which the young poet had unwisely ventured, that he seized and carried away all his books and papers, and even prohibited him, in the strictest manner, from ever again repeating a line of his compositions. This severe stroke was followed by another, which reduced him to utter despair. The master of the free school, to which he had never given up the hope of succeeding, died, and another person was appointed to the situation, not much older than Gifford, and who, he says, was certainly not so well qualified for it as himself. "I look back," he proceeds, "on that part of my life which immediately followed this event, with little satisfaction; it was a period of gloom and savage unsociability; by degrees I sunk into a kind of corporeal torpor; or, if roused into activity by the spirit of youth, wasted the exertion in splenetic and vexatious tricks, which alienated the few acquaintances, which compassion had yet left me."

His discontent and peevishness seem, however, to have gradually given way to the natural buoyancy of his disposition; some evidences of kindly feeling from those around him tended a good deal to dispel his gloom; and, especially, as the term of his apprenticeship drew towards a close, his former aspirations and hopes began to return to him. He had spent, however, nearly six years at his uncongenial employment before any decided prospect of deliverance opened before him. "In this humble and obscure state," says he, "poor beyond the common lot, yet flattering my ambition with day-dreams which perhaps would never have been realized, I was found, in the twentieth year of my age, by Mr. William Cookesley—a name never to be pronounced by me without veneration. The lamentable doggerel which I have already mentioned, and which had passed from mouth to mouth among people of my own degree had, by some accident or other, reached

his ear, and given him a curiosity to inquire after the author." Mr. Cookesley, who was a surgeon, and not rich, having learnt Gifford's history from himself, became so much interested in his favor, that he determined to rescue him from his obscurity.

"The plan," says Gifford, "that occurred to him was naturally that which had so often suggested itself to me. There were, indeed, several obstacles to be overcome. My hand-writing was bad, and my language very incorrect; but nothing could slacken the zeal of this excellent man. He procured a few of my poor attempts at rhyme, dispersed them among his friends and acquaintance, and, when my name was become somewhat familiar to them, set on foot a subscription for my relief. I still preserve the original paper; its title was not very magnificent, though it exceeded the most sanguine wishes of my heart. It ran thus: 'A subscription for purchasing the remainder of the time of William Gifford, and for enabling him to improve himself in writing and English grammar.' Few contributed more than five shillings, and none went beyond ten and sixpence,—enough was however collected to free me from my apprenticeship, (the sum my master received was six pounds,) and maintaining me for a few months, during which I assiduously attended the Rev. Thomas Smerdon."

The difficulties of the poor scholar were now over, for his patrons were so much pleased with the progress he made during this short period, that upon its expiration they renewed their bounty, and maintained him at school for another year. "Such liberality," he remarks, "was not lost upon me; I grew anxious to make the best return in my power, and I redoubled my diligence. Now that I am sunk into indolence, I look back with some degree of scepticism to the exertions of that period." In two years and two months from what he calls the day of his emanci-

patiòn, he was pronounced by his master to be fit for the university; and a small office having been obtained for him, by Mr. Cookesley's exertions at Oxford, he was entered of Exeter college, that gentleman undertaking to provide the additional means necessary to enable him to live till he should take his degree. Mr. Gifford's first patron died before his protegé had time to fulfil the good man's fond anticipations of his future celebrity; but he afterwards found in Lord Grosvenor, another much more able friend, though it was impossible that any other man could have shown more zeal in advancing his interests. A long and prosperous life was an ample compensation for the toils and hardships of his youth. While at the university, he undertook a poetical translation of the satires of Juvenal, but which was not published till several years afterwards. It is highly creditable to his ability as a satirist and critic. After leaving Oxford, he travelled on the continent for some years, with Lord Belgrave. On his return, he settled in London, and devoted himself to literary pursuits. In 1791, he published The Baviad, a poetical satire; and, in 1794, The Maeviad, a severe animadversion on the degraded state of the drama. These works were virulent and coarse, but display much critical power. In 1797, he became editor of the Anti-Jacobin newspaper. He soon published an edition of the plays of Massinger; afterwards the plays of Ben Jonson, Ford, and Shirley,—all accompanied with notes, and with the lives of the dramatists. In 1809, he commenced the publication of the Quarterly Review, in opposition to the Edinburgh. He conducted it till 1824, when the infirmities of age compelled him to retire. He was the writer of many of the articles in this Review, and generally performed his work with great judgment and ability. He seems, however, to have been wanting in candor and liberal feeling. Probably the circumstances of his early youth, as well as his connection with the tory-

party in politics, and the high church-party in religion, will account for the harshness and ungenerousness of some articles, which appeared in his Review, in relation to the United States. If he had kind feelings, they certainly forsook him when the religion and literature of this country came before his consideration. Mr. Gifford was thoroughly a literary man. Besides the works already mentioned, he was author of a translation of the Satires of Persius. He enjoyed an annuity from Lord Grosvenor, and held the office of paymaster of the board of gentlemen-pensioners, with a salary of £300 a year. He was also, for a time, comptroller of the lottery, with a salary of £600 a year. His death took place at his residence near London, December 31, 1826, and he was interred on the 8th of January following, in Westminster Abbey. He had no family. He left the greater part of his fortune to the son of his first kind and most disinterested patron, Mr. Cookesley.

JOHN M'LEAN.

JOHN M'LEAN was born in Somerset County, in the State of New Jersey, on the 11th of March, 1785. During his childhood, his father removed to the vicinity of Lexington, in Kentucky, where he remained till he purchased a tract of land in the Miami country, which he first occupied in 1797. He continues to reside on the same farm, now brought by the progress of improvement within the limits of the State of Ohio. The restricted pecuniary means of Mr. M'Lean, prevented him from conferring on his sons the advantages of a classical education, even if there had been seminaries for imparting such instruction in those distant settlements. His sons could partake only of the inferior education to be derived from the common schools in the country. In these schools, John M'Lean, the subject of this notice, distinguished himself from the earliest period of his career. He always occupied the first place in his class, and as a pupil, was noticed for the firmness of purpose, which has so strongly marked his subsequent life.

He continued on his father's farm, engaged in the honorable and invigorating labors of an husbandman, until 1802. Becoming desirous of enlarging the stores of his knowledge, he left his farm and his father's house, and commenced the study of the Latin language, and other

branches of liberal learning, under the care of two gentlemen in the neighborhood, well qualified to superintend his education.

In 1804, he entered the office of general Cane, the clerk of the courts in Cincinnati. During three years, he here availed himself of every opportunity of improvement. In this office he began the study of the law, under the care of Arthur St. Clair, son of the unfortunate general of the same name, and a gentleman of eminent legal attainments. Aware that the means of acquiring knowledge had been restricted in the first part of his life, young M'Lean now resolved to achieve all that untiring diligence could accomplish, to place himself on an equality, in point of information, with those who had possessed advantages superior to his own. His mental application was severe and unintermitted. That no time might be lost, he limited his hours of sleep and relaxation to the smallest demands of nature. His assiduity was well rewarded. In 1807, he commenced the practice of law. At that time there were several gentlemen at the bar, of considerable distinction. Mr. M'Lean soon gained an established reputation, and with it extensive business, which he maintained amidst powerful competition. By the efforts of his own unassisted powers, he soon rose to public notoriety and usefulness.

In 1812, at the age of twenty-seven years, he was selected as a candidate for Congress, in the district in which he resided, and which included Cincinnati. He was elected by more than double the number of votes given to two other citizens, who were supported against him. He took his seat in Congress, in the summer session succeeding the declaration of war. It was an era of deep interest, demanding great wisdom and energy in the conduct of public affairs. A system of revenue was adopted, and various other subjects of great moment were acted upon.

Mr. M'Lean was young and inexperienced, and showed his good sense, by avoiding to take part in the debates, preferring to enlarge his knowledge by listening to the arguments of mature statesmen. He uniformly gave his support to the administration, as was the case with nearly all the other members from the West. The first important measure, of which he was a public advocate, was a bill to compensate those individuals who lost their property, which was employed in the public service, at Detroit. He was also author of the measure which placed the widows of the officers and soldiers who fell in battle, on the half pay pension list for five years. The benefits of this humane act were extensively felt by a class of persons whose bereaved condition deeply excited the public sympathies. Mr. M'Lean thenceforward took a prominent position in the various discussions on the policy of the war, supporting the administration with great steadiness and vigor.

He was a member of the committee on "Foreign Relations," and also of that on "Public Lands." While at Washington, he had much local business of his constituents to transact, which was incident to the state of the conflict with Great Britain. His first period of duty in the House of Representatives having closed, he was re-elected by the unanimous vote of the district. No one was named as his opponent. It is a most honorable fact, and one which cannot be very often adduced in regard to the objects of public favor, that not the slightest censure was ever attached to the public or private character of Mr. M'Lean. During the session of the Legislature of Ohio, in 1814—15, he was strongly urged to become a candidate for the Senate of the United States, but declined. At the next session of the Legislature of Ohio, he yielded to the wishes of his friends, and was unanimously elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State.

During six years, he discharged the arduous duties of

his high office in such a manner as to give general satisfaction to the people. In the autumn of 1822, Judge M'Lean, without his solicitation or knowledge, was nominated by President Monroe, Commissioner of the Land Office, which appointment he was induced to accept after considerable hesitation. In the summer of 1823, he was named Post Master General—a department which was at that time overwhelmed with debt. It was truly a Herculean task to re-organize it. Judge M'Lean entered, however, with confidence, upon his difficult work. He brought an energy, a moral courage, and an industry to his duties, which have rarely ever been equalled. Hardly any public officer has acquired so high a reputation by the faithful and rigidly impartial manner in which he performed his duties. During the three years preceding his appointment, the receipts of the post office fell short of the expenditure, two hundred and sixty-two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars; and for the year immediately preceding, fifty-five thousand one hundred and forty dollars. He remained in office until 1829, during which period he increased the annual revenue more than half a million of dollars, and nearly doubled the amount of the transportation of the mail, by stage-coaches, throughout the United States. No officer of our government ever devoted himself more faithfully to his duties, and very few individuals are capable of undergoing the amount of labor to which he subjected himself. He infused life through the vast extent, and multifarious departments of the post office. Every grievance was sure to meet with an impartial hearing, and if well-founded, with speedy redress. His intercourse with the various subordinate officers of his department, was marked with a truly Spartan frankness and honesty. He left no one to mistake his meaning. His maxim was, that nothing should be considered as finished, while anything remained undone. A deep im-

pression of the sterling qualities of his character was made on the whole country by his renovation of the post office department. He continued to exercise the functions of Post Master General, during the administration of Mr. Adams. General Jackson, soon after his election, nominated Mr. M'Lean to the office of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is understood that he fills this office with much propriety. He has lately declined being considered as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

It is a gratifying circumstance, that Judge M'Lean has uniformly shown that he is actuated by high moral considerations, and that he is not ashamed to avow his attachment to that religion which so many statesmen abjure or neglect.

THOMAS BALDWIN.

Among the most numerous and prosperous of the Christian denominations in this country, are the Calvinistic Baptists. In numerical strength, they are superior to any other division of the Church, with the exception of the Methodists. Their growth, especially in some of the more recently settled portions of the country, has been extremely rapid. This prosperity has been owing very much to the energy and wisdom of a few individuals. The Baptists have not, to a great extent, placed their reliance upon associated effort. Their organization, as a denomination, is far less complete than that of any other. Their churches have exhibited, perhaps, more conspicuously even than the Congregational, the republican, or rather democratic principles of equality of rights, and community of privileges. Such a state of things is eminently calculated to bring out individual effort, to cherish and develope personal character. Men must have a rallying point. Scattered talent must have a place of convergence. Nothing important can be accomplished in morals and religion, any more than in war and politics, without leaders. If there be no organization on which to recline, some master-spirit will arise. If there be no marshalled host, the people will flock to David in the wilderness. If there be no college or theological seminary to concentrate public attention, and dis-

cipline collected talent, some patriarch will draw around his tent the sons of science, or the disciples of Jesus.

Such have been, in the Baptist community, Williams, Backus, Stillman, and Baldwin. With great and striking difference as to talent and acquirement, each of those men attained a distinguished rank, and exerted an extensive and an enduring influence. Upon each devolved the care, not simply of a church or congregation, but, in an important sense, the care of all the churches in the connection. With no theological seminary, and with not more than one college, the three last named, particularly, labored to supply, so far as unwearied personal effort could do it, the acknowledged deficiency.

Thomas Baldwin was born in Bozrah, in the State of Connecticut, December 23, 1753, and was the only son of Thomas and Mary Baldwin, both natives of the same place. Of the early history of his family, but little is known. It may, however, be observed, that his father was attached to the military service, and rose to distinction in the then colonial army. He died while his son was a youth. His mother was a woman of talent and piety, and to her faithful and affectionate instructions, her son was greatly indebted.

Not much is known of his early history. The traits of character for which he was in manhood remarkable, were, however, very early developed. From infancy his temper was noticed for its unruffled serenity. His mother used to observe that she never knew him, but in a single instance, to betray any signs of impatience; and when, on this occasion, she expressed her surprise, he instantly replied, "Mother, I am not angry."

He very early discovered a taste for reading. Not only did he devote every leisure moment to the improvement of his mind, but also consecrated to this object the hours of labor. Whenever his employments were of such a nature

that one of his hands was disengaged, it was occupied with a book. By these habits of incessant application, he very early acquired a stock of valuable though miscellaneous information, which, combined with strong powers of original thinking, seemed in youth to mark him out for distinguished usefulness.

At this time the advantages of education were much less extensively enjoyed in New England, than at present. Schools were very rare, and the general modes of instruction palpably defective. As a proof of this, it need only be remarked, that when Mr. Baldwin removed to Canaan, New Hampshire, where he afterwards resided, he was generally selected on the Sabbath, to read a sermon to the people, who assembled for public worship, because he was the only young man in the town who was sufficiently educated to perform this service acceptably. The mention of this fact is sufficient to show how strong must be his early bias towards intellectual improvement.

When Mr. Baldwin was about sixteen years of age, his mother, who was now a second time married to a very worthy and pious man, by the name of Eames, removed to Canaan, in the State of New Hampshire. He removed with the family; and this became for several years the place of his residence. In September, 1775, he was married to Miss Ruth Huntington, of Norwich, Connecticut. Before he was thirty years of age, Mr. Baldwin was elected to represent the town of Canaan, in the General Court of the State. To this office he was repeatedly re-elected.

In the year 1780, an interesting change took place in the character of Mr. Baldwin. After a season of deep religious anxiety, he was enabled joyfully to devote himself to the service of his Redeemer. His views of truth were clear and impressive. His sense of the evil of sin, and of the purity of God's law, were such as to lead him to deep humiliation, and to an entire and cordial reliance on

the mediation and atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of this period of mental solicitude, Mr. Baldwin has left an interesting and particular memoir. Mr. Baldwin was educated in the principles of the Congregationalists, but about this time, after much deliberation, he united himself to the Baptists. He was ordained as an evangelist, in June, 1783. The following extracts from his journal, show his spirit and manner of life. "I continued my labors with the church in Canaan seven years, during which time, though principally at home on the Sabbath, I spent much of the intervening time in visiting and preaching in the destitute parts of the surrounding country. There were few towns within the space of fifty miles round, in which I did not occasionally preach. In this warfare I went chiefly at my own charges. Some few churches, however, which I visited by appointment of the Association, made me some compensation, and some individuals made me small presents; but I do not recollect, that during the whole of this period, in all my journeyings, I ever received a public contribution. My mode of travelling was on horseback. In pursuing my appointments, I had often to climb the ragged mountain, and descend the deep ravine. These exchanges, from rocky steeps to dismal swamps, were far from unfrequent at that early period of the settlement of this part of our country. The roads are since so improved, that it would be difficult to persuade the traveller, now-a-days, that they had ever been as bad as the early settlers represent.

"The people were not, however, so much wanting in kindness, as in the means of assisting a travelling minister. As for silver and gold, the greater part of them had none. The cause of this scarcity of money arose from the peculiar circumstances of the times. At the close of the revolutionary war, the continental currency, which had before depreciated to almost nothing, ceased. The

little silver that remained in the coffers of the rich, was with much reluctance permitted to be drawn from its long sequestered concealment. It hence often happened that the travelling preacher must either beg or go hungry, if he happened to travel where he was not known." On one occasion, in March, 1790, Mr. Baldwin was called to visit a remote part of New Hampshire, about one hundred miles distant, to assist in the establishment of a church. He left home with only a few shillings, but before the first night the whole was lost. The journey was chiefly through a wilderness, with a few log cottages to relieve the solitude of the gloomy forest. The snow was more than three feet deep, and the travelling was consequently very difficult and dangerous. At length Mr. Baldwin and his friends reached home in safety, after having subsisted on such casual entertainment as they could procure in the wilderness.

During the seven years which he passed in Canaan, the whole of his salary would not average *forty dollars* a year. "Hence," says Mr. Baldwin, "I may say with the apostle, 'These hands have ministered to my necessities, and those that were with me.' I would have gladly devoted myself wholly to the work of the ministry, could I have seen any way in which my family might have been supported."

In the year 1790, Mr. Baldwin received an unanimous invitation to settle in the ministry, from Sturbridge, Mass., Hampton, Conn., and from the second Baptist Church in Boston. He was installed over the latter church, in November, 1790.

This removal brought him into an almost entirely new sphere of action. From the frontier settlements of New Hampshire, he was removed to the centre of polished and literary society in New England, and placed by the side of such men as the Rev. Drs. Lathrop, Eliot, Howard,

Belknap, and Thacher, of the Congregational Church, and of the excellent Dr. Stillman, of the first Baptist Church; several of whom were eminent and finished classical scholars. The pulpits of Boston were perhaps never more ably filled.

These circumstances added a powerful stimulus to Mr. Baldwin's efforts, and in fact, created a new era in his life. His early advantages for education, as has been seen, were but scanty. Constant labor had left him but little opportunity to improve them. He was now thirty-eight years of age; a time of life beyond which men do not generally make great advancement in knowledge. Says his biographer, "All the resources upon which, depending on the grace of God, he could rely, in this arduous situation, were sincere desires to be useful, native vigor of mind, a fixed resolution to prepare himself for the duties to which Providence called him, a considerable store of sound reflection on theology, and knowledge of human nature." He saw his deficiencies, and gave himself to his work with great and unrelaxing diligence. He commenced a course of judicious theological and critical study, which enabled him better to serve the church in the pulpit, and more extensively to illustrate and defend her doctrines from the press. The standard of preaching rose in his own denomination, every where around him. He assisted his young brethren in their attempts to acquire the advantages of education. He set before them an example of simple, unaffected piety. In 1803, Mr. Baldwin commenced the publication of the Massachusetts Baptist Magazine, (afterwards the American Baptist Magazine.) From its commencement to the year 1817, he was its sole editor, and from 1817, to his death, he was the senior editor. For many years this was the only Baptist religious periodical in America. To its influence, and to the labors of Mr. Baldwin, by its means, may be ascribed,

in a considerable degree, the progress which has been made in his own denomination, in acquaintance with each other, in missionary enterprise, and in religious knowledge. In 1802, he was appointed to deliver the annual sermon before the Legislature of the Commonwealth, on the day of General Election. Three editions of this discourse were published. It was pronounced by the American Review, an able and interesting sermon. In 1803, Union College at Schenectady, N. Y. conferred on Mr. Baldwin, the honorary degree of Doctor in Divinity. He was a trustee, and afterwards a fellow of Brown University, at Providence, R. I., a trustee of the Columbian College, at Washington, D. C., and of Waterville College, in Maine. He was also President, at the time of his death, of the Baptist Board of Managers for Foreign Missions. He was a member of the convention for amending the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the year 1821. He occasionally addressed the convention with ability and effect.

Dr. Baldwin died suddenly at Waterville, Maine, August 29, 1825, whither he had gone to attend the annual commencement of the college. His remains were brought to Boston, and interred with every mark of respect and veneration. He had been aware, for some time, that he was drawing near to the grave. "Dr. Baldwin," remarks his biographer, "was not afraid to die. His faith was firm, his hope was unclouded. Like the sun at his setting, what was wanting in meridian splendor, was more than supplied by the mild radiance on which the eye delighted to dwell, and which threw abroad its rich and mellowed glories more profusely, the nearer it approached to the moment of its departure."

The number of Dr. Baldwin's publications, besides his numerous contributions to periodical works, amounted to thirty-seven. Most of them were single occasional sermons. As a proof of the extent of his labors, it is men-

tioned that the number of individuals whom he had baptized in Boston and other places, amounted to seven hundred and eighty-eight. The number of marriages which he solemnized in Boston, was two thousand six hundred and sixty-one.

Much of the excellence of Dr. Baldwin's character, is doubtless to be attributed to the circumstances in which he was thrown, in the providence of God. His residence in the wilds of New Hampshire, imparted an energy and decision to his character which never forsook him. The circle of clergymen with whom he associated in the metropolis of New England, would naturally tend to correct his taste, and enlarge his views. Still it was his own patient, self-denying, vigorous effort, which principally, under God, was the cause of his eminent usefulness. His various controversies sharpened and invigorated his reasoning powers, but they did not create or essentially modify those powers.

It is a most interesting fact in the history of Dr. Baldwin, that he almost commenced anew his literary life at the age of *thirty-eight*. His success furnishes strong encouragement to that class in the community, whose early education has been neglected, and who find themselves, in middle life, in a state of comparative and humiliating ignorance. It is never too late to read; it is never too late to think. It is always a duty and a privilege to cultivate those noble powers of reasoning and judgment, which our benevolent Creator has given to us. Why may not the intellect be kept burning brightly to the last moment of life? Why may not the stores of knowledge be enlarged beyond the age of sixty? Why may not even the imagination retain, up to the farthest limit of human existence, the freshness and vigor of earlier flights? Why may not the soul spring into a renovated and immortal life, with unimpaired and unwasted energies? Is not much of that

senility in intellect, which we frequently observe in old age, to be attributed, not to the constitution of the mind, not to any law of the Creator, but to habits of bodily indulgence; because the individual quietly acquiesced in what he ought to have vigorously met and vanquished? because he tamely submitted to the suggestions of indolence, or to the seductive charms of domestic life? Why not approach the territories of death, as Dr. Dwight and Robert Hall did, with firm step, with clear-sighted vision, with intelligent humble faith, and with intellect too strong and elastic for the frail earthly tenement any longer to imprison.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

See the sage Rittenhouse, with ardent eye,
Lift the long tube and pierce the starry sky;
Clear in his view the circling systems roll,
And broader splendors gild the central pole.
He marks what laws the eccentric wanderers bind,
Copies creation in his forming mind,
And bids, beneath his hand in semblance rise,
With mimic orbs, the labors of the skies.

Vision of Columbus.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE was born near Germantown, Pennsylvania, April 8th, 1732. The family originally came from Guelderland, a province in Holland. They settled in the State of New York, while it was a Dutch colony, and were the first who engaged in the manufacture of paper in this country. The father of David Rittenhouse abandoned the occupation of a paper-maker, when about twenty-nine years of age, and commenced the business of a farmer, on a piece of land which he had purchased in the township of Norriton, about twenty miles from the city of Philadelphia. It seems that he very early designed his son for this useful and respectable employment. Accordingly, as soon as the boy arrived at a sufficient age to assist in conducting the affairs of the farm, he was occupied as an husbandman. This kind of occupation appears to have commenced at an early

period of his life. About the fourteenth year of his age, he was employed in ploughing in his father's fields. His brother Benjamin relates, that while David was thus engaged at the plough, he, (the informant,) then a young boy, was frequently sent to call him to his meals; at which times he repeatedly observed, that not only the fences at the head of many of the furrows, but even his ploughs and its handles, were covered over with chalked numerical figures. Astronomy was a favorite pursuit. He also applied himself industriously to the study of optics, the mechanical powers, &c. without the advantages of the least instruction. About the seventeenth year of his age, he made a wooden clock, of very ingenious workmanship; and soon after, he constructed one of the same materials that compose the common four-and-twenty hour clock, and upon the same principles. He had, much earlier in life, exhibited proofs of his mechanical genius, by making, when only seven or eight years old, a complete water-mill in miniature.

With many valuable traits of character, old Mr. Rittenhouse had no claims to what is termed genius. Hence he did not properly appreciate the early specimens of talent which appeared in his son David. He was, for some time, opposed to the young man's earnest desire to renounce agricultural employments, for the purpose of devoting himself altogether, to philosophical pursuits, in connection with some such mechanical profession as might best comport with useful objects of natural philosophy, and be most likely, at the same time, to afford him the means of a comfortable subsistence. At length, however, the father yielded his own inclinations, in order to gratify what was manifestly the irresistible impulse of his son's genius. He supplied him with money to purchase, in Philadelphia, such tools as were more immediately necessary for commencing the clock-making business, which the son then adopted as

his profession. About the same time, young Mr. Rittenhouse erected, on the side of a public road and on his father's land, in the township of Norriton, a small but commodious workshop; and, after having made many implements of the trade with his own hands, to supply the deficiency in his purchased stock, he set out in good earnest, as a clock and mathematical instrument maker. From the age of eighteen or nineteen to twenty-five, Mr. Rittenhouse applied himself unremittingly, both to his trade and his studies. Employed throughout the day in his attention to the former, he devoted much of his nights to the latter. Indeed, he deprived himself of the necessary hours of rest; for it was his almost invariable practice, to sit up at his books, until midnight, sometimes much later.

When Mr. Rittenhouse's father established his residence at Norriton, and during the minority of the son, there were no schools in the vicinity at which anything more was taught, than reading and writing in the English language, and the simplest rules of arithmetic. Young Rittenhouse's school education was therefore necessarily bounded by very narrow limits. He was in truth *taught* nothing beyond those very circumscribed studies, which have been named, prior to his nineteenth year. The zeal with which he pursued his studies will be seen from the following extract of a letter, written in September, 1756, being then little more than twenty-four years of age. "I have not health for a soldier," (the country was then engaged in war,) "and as I have no expectation of serving my country in that way, I am spending my time in the old trifling manner, and am so taken with optics, that I do not know whether, if the enemy should invade this part of the country, as Archimedes was slain while making geometrical figures on the sand, so I should die making a telescope."

An incident now occurred which served to make known

more extensively, the extraordinary genius of Rittenhouse. His mother had two brothers, David and Lewis Williams (or William), both of whom died in their minority. David, the elder of these, pursued the trade of a carpenter, or joiner. Though, like his nephew and namesake, he was almost wholly an uneducated youth, he also, like him, early discovered an unusual genius and strength of mind. After the death of this young man, on opening a chest containing the implements of his trade, which was deposited at Mr. M. Rittenhouse's, (in whose family it is presumed he dwelt,) a few elementary books, treating of arithmetic and geometry, were found in it. With these, there were various calculations and other papers, in manuscript: all the productions of David Williams himself, and such as indicated not only an uncommon genius, but an active spirit of philosophical research. To this humble yet valuable coffer of his deceased uncle, Rittenhouse had free access, while yet a very young boy. He often spoke of this acquisition as a treasure, inasmuch as the instruments belonging to his uncle, afforded him the means of gratifying and exercising his mechanical genius, while the books and manuscripts early led his mind to those congenial pursuits in mathematical and astronomical science, which were ever the favorite objects of his studies. This circumstance, probably, occurred before his twelfth year. "It was during the residence of Rittenhouse with his father at Norriton," says his eulogist, Dr. Rush, "that he made himself master of Sir Isaac Newton's Principia, which he read in the English translation of Mr. Motte. It was here, likewise, that he became acquainted with the science of fluxions; of which sublime invention, he believed himself for a while to be the author, nor did he know for some years afterwards, that a contest had been carried on between Sir Isaac Newton and Leibnitz, for the honor of that great and useful discovery." Mr. Rit-

tenhouse's early zeal in his practical researches into astronomy, prompted him to desire the greatest possible accuracy in the construction of time-pieces adapted to astronomical purposes; and uniting, as he did, operative skill with a thorough knowledge of the principles upon which their construction depends, he was enabled, by his own mechanical ingenuity, to gain a near approach to the perfection to which the pendulum-chronometer may be brought.

"There is nothing peculiar in the mechanism of this time-piece, which requires to be mentioned, except the pendulum; especially the apparatus for counteracting the effects of temperature. For this purpose, there is fastened on the pendulum-rod (which is of iron or steel) a glass tube about thirty-six inches long; bent in the middle into two parallel branches, at the distance of about an inch from each other; the bend being placed downwards, immediately above the bob of the pendulum. The tube is open at one end, and closed at the other; the arm which is closed at the top is filled, within about two inches of the lower end or bend, with alcohol, and the rest of the tube, within about one half of an inch of the upper extremity, or open end, with mercury; a few inches of the tube, at this extremity, being about twice the width of the rest of the tube.

"Now when the heat of the air increases, it will expand the pendulum-rod; and would thus lower the centre of oscillation, and cause the clock to go slower; but this effect is completely counteracted, by the expansion of the alcohol chiefly, and of the mercury in part; which equally raises the centre of oscillation, and thus preserves an equable motion in all the variable temperatures of the atmosphere."

The great accuracy and exquisite workmanship displayed in every thing belonging to the profession which Mr. Rittenhouse pursued, that came through his hands, soon became extensively known, in that portion of the

United States where he lived. This knowledge of his mechanical abilities, assisted by the reputation which he had already acquired as a mathematician and astronomer, in a short time procured him the friendship and patronage of some eminent scientific men. In mechanics he was entirely *self-taught*. He never received the least instruction from any person, in any mechanic art whatever. If he were to be considered merely as an excellent artist, in an occupation intimately connected with the science of mechanics, *untutored* as he was in any art or science, he would deservedly be deemed an extraordinary man.

In the bosom of his father's family he long continued to enjoy the tranquil scenes of rural life, amidst the society of an amiable and very intelligent family circle, and surrounded by many estimable neighbors, by whom he was both loved and respected. His chief occupation was that of the profession which he had chosen, but the occasional intervals of leisure from his business, which his assistant workmen enabled him to obtain, he devoted to philosophical and abstract studies.

In February, 1766, Mr. Rittenhouse was married to Miss Eleanor Colston, the daughter of a respectable member of the Society of Friends, who lived in the neighborhood. After her death he married Miss Hannah Jacobs.

In the year 1767, among other things, he contrived and made a very ingenious thermometer, constructed on the principle of the expansion and contraction of metals by heat and cold, respectively. This instrument had, under glass, a face upon which was a graduated semi-circle; the degrees of heat and cold corresponded with those of Fahrenheit's thermometer; and these were also correspondingly designated by an index moving on the centre of the arch. Its square, or rather parallelogramical form, its flatness and thinness, and its small size, together with its not being liable to the least sensible injury or irregularity,

from any position in which it might be placed, rendered it a very convenient thermometer to be carried in the pocket.

About this time Mr. Rittenhouse made a very ingenious orrery. Though no description in words, can give an adequate idea, yet we subjoin a part of the philosopher's own account of it. "This machine is intended to have three faces, standing perpendicular to the horizon; that in the front to be four feet square, made of sheet brass, curiously polished, silvered, and painted, in proper places, and otherwise properly ornamented. From the centre arises an axis, to support a gilded brass ball, intended to represent the sun. Round this ball move others, made of brass or ivory, to represent the planets. They are to move in elliptical orbits, having the central ball in one focus; and their motions to be sometimes swifter, and sometimes slower, as nearly according to the true law of an equable description of areas as possible, without too great a complication of wheel work. The orbit of each planet is likewise to be properly inclined to those of the others; and their aphelia and nodes justly placed; and their velocities so accurately adjusted, as not to differ sensibly from the tables of astronomy in some thousands of years.

"For the greater beauty of the instrument, the balls representing the planets are to be of considerable bigness; but so contrived that they may be taken off at pleasure, and others, much smaller, and fitter for some purposes, put in their places.

"When the machine is put in motion, by the turning of a winch, there are three indexes which point out the hour of the day, the day of the month, and the year answering to that situation of the heavenly bodies which is there represented; and so continually, for a period of five thousand years, either forwards or backwards.

"The two lesser faces are four feet in height, and two feet three inches in breadth. One of them will exhibit all

the appearances of Jupiter and his satellites, their eclipses, transits, and inclinations; likewise all the appearances of Saturn, with his ring and satellites. And the other will represent all the phenomena of the moon, particularly, the exact time, quantity, and duration of her eclipses,—and those of the sun occasioned by her interposition; with a most curious contrivance for exhibiting the appearance of a solar eclipse, at any particular place on the earth, likewise the true place of the moon in the signs, with her latitude, and the place of her apogee in the nodes; the sun's declination, equation of time, &c. It must be understood that all these motions are to correspond exactly with the celestial motions; and not to differ several degrees from the truth, in a few revolutions, as is common in orreries."

Some general idea, perhaps, of this instrument, may be derived from the preceding description; at least it will afford sufficient evidence of the extraordinary philosophical and mechanical powers of Rittenhouse.

Another most important service, which he rendered for the world, was the observation of the *transit of Venus* over the sun's disc, which took place on the third of June, 1769. There had been but one of these transits of Venus over the sun, during the course of about one hundred and thirty years preceding that of 1769; and, for upwards of seven centuries, antecedently to the commencement of that period, the same planet had passed over the sun's disc no more than thirteen times. The next transit of Venus will take place on the 8th of December, 1874, which, but few if any persons, then on the stage of life, will have an opportunity of observing. From 1874, down to the 14th of June, A. D. 2984, inclusively,—a period of upwards of eleven centuries,—the same planet will pass over the sun's disc only eighteen times.

The great use of the observation of the transit of Venus

is to determine the sun's parallax.* Only two of these phenomena had been *observed* since the creation of the world, and the first had been seen by only two persons—Jeremiah Horrox and William Crabtree, two Englishmen. As the time approached when this extraordinary phenomenon was to manifest itself, the public expectation and anxiety were greatly excited. The American Philosophical Society appointed thirteen gentlemen, to be distributed into three committees, for the purpose of making observations. Rev. Dr. Ewing had the principal direction of the observatory in the city of Philadelphia; Mr. Owen Biddle had the charge of superintending the observations at Cape Henlopen, and Mr. Rittenhouse those at Norriton, near his own residence, on an elevated piece of ground, commanding a good range of horizontal view. It was completely furnished with the necessary instruments, owing very much to the liberality of some scientific gentlemen in England.

"We are naturally led," says Dr. Rush, in his eulogium, "to take a view of our philosopher, with his associates, in their preparations to observe a phenomenon, which had never been seen but twice before by any inhabitant of our earth, which would never be seen again by any person then living, and on which depended very important astronomical consequences. The night before the long expected day, was probably passed in a degree of solicitude which precluded sleep. How great must have been their joy, when they beheld the morning sun; and the 'whole horizon without a cloud,' for such is the description of the

* A parallax denotes a change of the apparent place of any heavenly body, caused by being seen from different points of view; or it is the difference between the true and apparent distance of any heavenly body from the zenith. The fixed stars are so remote as to have no sensible parallax; and even the sun and all the primary planets, except Mars and Venus when nearest the earth, are at so great distances from the earth, that their parallax is too small to be observed.

day, given by Mr. Rittenhouse, in his report to Dr. Smith. In pensive silence and trembling anxiety, they waited for the predicted moment of observation; it came,—and brought with it all that had been wished for, and expected, by those who saw it. In our philosopher, in the instant of one of the contacts of the planet with the sun, there was an emotion of delight so exquisite and powerful, as to induce fainting:—such was the extent of that pleasure, which attends the discovery or first perception of truth."

The observations of Mr. Rittenhouse were received with great favor by the whole philosophical world. Mr. Ludlam, one of the vice presidents of the Philosophical Society of London, and an eminent astronomer, thus writes, "No astronomers could better deserve all possible encouragement; whether we consider their care and diligence in making their observations, their fidelity in relating what was done, or the clearness and accuracy of their reasoning on this curious and difficult subject. The more I read the transactions of your Society, (the American Philosophical,) the more I honor and esteem the members of it. *There is not another Society in the world, that can boast of a member such as Mr.* RITTENHOUSE; theorist enough to encounter the problems of determining, from a few observations, the orbit of a comet; and also mechanic enough to make, with his own hands, an equal-altitude instrument, a transit-telescope, and a time-piece. I wish I was near enough to see his mechanical apparatus. I find he is engaged in making a curious orrery."

Dr. Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal at Greenwich, says, the "Pennsylvania Observations of the transit were *excellent* and *complete*, and do honor to the gentlemen who made them, and those who promoted the undertaking." Dr. Wrangel, an eminent and learned Swedish clergyman, speaking of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, says, "Your accurate observations of the

transit of Venus, have given infinite satisfaction to our Swedish astronomers."

On the 9th of November following, Mr. Rittenhouse, in connection with several others, observed a transit of Mercury over the sun's disc.

In the autumn of 1770, Mr. Rittenhouse removed with his family to the city of Philadelphia.

A new phenomenon in the heavens soon after engaged his attention; this was the comet which appeared in June and July, 1770. "Herewith I send you," says Mr. Rittenhouse, writing to Dr. Smith, "the fruit of three or four days' labor, during which I have covered many sheets, and literally drained my ink-stand several times." In another letter he remarks, "I told you that some intricate calculation, or other, always takes up my idle hours, (he seems to have considered all his hours 'idle' ones which were not taken up in some manual employment,) that I cannot find time to write to my friends as often as I could wish; a new object has lately engrossed my attention. The comet which appeared a few weeks since was so very extraordinary, that I could not forbear tracing it in all its wanderings, and endeavoring to reduce that motion to order and regularity which seemed void of any. This, I think, I have accomplished, so far as to be able to compute its visible place for any given time; and I can assure you that the account from York, of its having been seen again near the place where it first appeared, is a mistake. Nor is Mr. Winthrop of Boston happier, in supposing that it yet crosses the meridian, every day, between twelve and one o'clock, that it has already passed its peripelion, and that it may, perhaps, again emerge from the southern horizon. This comet is now to be looked for nowhere but a little to the north of, and very near to the ecliptic. It rises now a little before day-break; and will continue to rise sooner and sooner every morning."

In March, 1771, the Legislature of Pennsylvania bore the following honorable testimony to the worth of Mr. Rittenhouse.

"The members of assembly, having viewed the orrery constructed by Mr. David Rittenhouse, a native of this province, and being of opinion that it greatly exceeds all others hitherto constructed, in demonstrating the true situations of the celestial bodies, their magnitudes, motions, distances, periods, eclipses, and order, upon the principles of the Newtonian system;

"*Resolved*, That the sum of three hundred pounds be given to Mr. Rittenhouse, as a testimony of the high sense, which this house entertain of his mathematical genius and mechanical abilities, in constructing the said orrery."

In January, 1771, Mr. Rittenhouse was elected one of the Secretaries of the American Philosophical Society. In 1789, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Mr. Rittenhouse by the college of New Jersey. In January, 1791, on the death of Dr. Franklin, Dr. Rittenhouse was, with great unanimity, elected President of the American Philosophical Society. In 1795, he was elected a member of the Royal Society of London. This high honor had been previously conferred upon only three or four Americans.

But he did not live long to enjoy his distinguished honors. Soon after his entrance upon the sixty-fifth year of his age, in June, 1796, he died.

The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, being pastor of the congregation in which Dr. Rittenhouse had often attended divine worship during the latter years of his life, pronounced an appropriate address at his interment. "This," says Dr. Green, "is emphatically the tomb of genius and science. Their child, their martyr is here deposited,—and their friends will make his eulogy in tears. I stand not here to pronounce it; the thought that engrosses my

mind is this; how much more clear and impressive must be the views, which the late spiritual inhabitant of that lifeless corpse now possesses of GOD,—of his infinite existence, of his adorable attributes, and of that eternal blaze of glory which emanates from Him,—than when she was blinded by her vail of flesh! Accustomed as she was to penetrate far into the universe,—far as corporeal or mental vision here can reach,—still what new and extensive scenes of wonder have opened on her eyes, enlightened and invigorated by death! The discoveries of RITTENHOUSE, since he died, have already been more, and greater, than while he lived. Yes, and could he address us from the spiritual world, his language would be—

> 'All, all on earth is shadow, all beyond
> Is substance.—'"

In a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Sproat, Dr. Rittenhouse, a short time before his death, declared that "he could with truth say, that ever since he had examined Christianity and thought upon the subject, he was a firm believer in it; and that he expected salvation *only* in the way of the gospel." He had not attached himself to any particular church. The members of his family were mostly of the Society of Friends. In the last years of his life he read many books on natural and revealed religion. He was much pleased with the "Thoughts of Pascal."

He was a very modest and unassuming man, and in this strikingly resembled Sir Isaac Newton, for whose character and works, he had the highest veneration. His usefulness, though great, was considerably circumscribed by his want of an early education. In consequence of this, he felt an unbecoming diffidence in his own powers, and failed to commit his discoveries and thoughts to writing, which, in a published form, would, doubtless, have eminently increased his usefulness, and the honor of the country, which gave him birth.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

Samuel Huntington was born in Windham, in the State of Connecticut, on the third day of July, 1732. The family of Huntingtons emigrated into this country, at an early period. Nathaniel Huntington, the father of Samuel, was a plain but estimable man, who followed the occupation of farming, in the town of Windham. His wife was distinguished for piety and native talent, and their numerous children, of whom three devoted themselves to the Christian ministry, were endued with an unusual share of mental vigor. Samuel, however, did not participate in the invaluable benefits, which a collegiate education conferred upon his brothers. Being the eldest son, he was destined to pursue the humble but honorable course of his father—the cultivation of the soil. His opportunities of acquiring knowledge were extremely limited, and he received no other education than the common schools of Connecticut at that time afforded. He was gifted, however, with a fine understanding, and with a strong taste for mental improvement. He employed all his leisure hours in reading and study. But even in this limited and imperfect course, he was compelled to struggle with great difficulties. Books were then exceedingly rare. We, who live in the nineteenth century, can hardly conceive the extent of the destitution of books, which prevailed even in the time of the

revolutionary war. The whole library, of which some most respectable families were possessed, consisted of a Psalter, one large Bible, and two or three of smaller size, Dilworth's Spelling-Book, an Almanac, and perhaps one volume of the Berry Street (London) Sermons. Some families contrived to obtain a few additional works, but the scarcity, every where, was very great. A curious proof of this is found in the life of President Edwards, in which he acknowledges repeatedly his great obligations to his foreign correspondents for books and pamphlets, which would not now be considered worth a transmission over the Atlantic. Social or public libraries were almost unknown, especially in the smaller towns.

The labors of the farm, which young Huntington continued to perform, until the twenty-second year of his age, necessarily occupied the greater portion of his time, yet his strong mind and unwearied industry enabled him to acquire considerable scientific information upon various subjects. At the age of twenty-two years, when he abandoned his agricultural pursuits, to engage in the study of the law, he had acquired, principally from his own unassisted exertions, an excellent common education. He attained considerable acquaintance with the Latin language. It does not appear that he directed his attention to any other foreign tongue.

He early manifested a strong desire to study the legal profession. He resolved "to thread the maze of the law," with no other guide than his own judgment and perseverance, and to attain to distinguished usefulness by industry and self-denial. It is probable that the method adopted by him arose from pecuniary difficulties. He did not attempt to seek the benefits of legal tuition in the office of a lawyer, but borrowed the necessary books from Colonel Jedidiah Elderkin, a member of the profession, residing in Norwich. Having attained a competent knowledge of

the general principles of law, he commenced his professional career in the town of Windham. In 1760, he removed to Norwich. His reputation as an advocate and a man of talents, was soon established. Aided by a candid and deliberate manner, which appeared in some degree constitutional, few lawyers commanded a more extensive practice. He was known to be a man of good sense, integrity, and punctuality. In 1774, Mr. Huntington was appointed an Associate Judge of the Superior Court. In 1775, in conjunction with Roger Sherman, Titus Hosmer, Oliver Wolcott, and William Williams, Mr. Huntington took his seat in the General Congress. In July, 1776, he affixed his name to the immortal instrument, which declared our independence.

He retained his seat in Congress, till 1780. His stern integrity, and inflexible patriotism, rendered him a prominent member, and attracted a large portion of the current business of the house, especially that which was assigned to committees. On the 28th of September, 1779, on the resignation of John Jay, Mr. Huntington was chosen to the highest civil dignity of the country—that of President of Congress. In 1781, he declined a re-appointment on account of ill health. He then resumed his judicial functions in the Supreme Court of Connecticut. In 1783, he again took his seat in Congress. In 1784, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. He presided on the bench with great ability, integrity, and reputation. In 1786, he succeeded Governor Griswold, as Chief Magistrate of the State, and continued to be re-elected, with singular unanimity, till his death.

He closed his life at Norwich, on the 5th of January, 1796, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. His death was tranquil and exemplary, and his religious confidence generally firm and unwavering.

For many years he had been a professor of religion, and

appeared to derive great delight from the doctrines and ordinances of the gospel. When the congregation, with which he worshipped, was destitute of preaching, he officiated as a reader and conductor of the services.

Perhaps no man ever possessed greater mildness and equanimity, than Governor Huntington. A living witness attests, that during a residence of twenty-four years in his family, he never, in a single instance, exhibited the slightest symptom of anger, nor spoke one word calculated to wound the feelings of another, or to injure an absent person. Notwithstanding his elevation, he had none of that false pride, which dignity and honors are so apt to create. After performing the business of his office, and instructing numerous students in the principles of law, he was accustomed, if any garden or household utensils had been broken, to repair them with his own hands; and rather than require the attendance of a servant for any trivial services, he would perform them himself. Being a man of great simplicity and plainness of manners, he maintained that it was a public duty to exhibit such an example as might, so far as his individual efforts could avail, counteract the spirit of extravagance, which had begun to appear. He was very economical, though not parsimonious, in his personal habits and domestic arrangements. His distinguishing characteristics, both in conversation and in epistolary correspondence, were brevity and caution.

In 1762, he was married to Miss Martha Devotion, a daughter of the very respectable clergyman of the town of Windham. Having no children of their own, they adopted two children of their brother's, the Rev. Joseph Huntington. The late Samuel Huntington, Governor of Ohio, and Mrs. Griffin, the lady of the venerable President of Williams College, were the individuals who supplied the deficiency in his family, and were privileged with his excellent example and instructions.

WILLIAM EDWARDS.

William Edwards, the celebrated Welsh engineer, was born in 1719, in the parish of Eglwysan, in Glamorganshire. He lost his father, who was a farmer, when he was only two years old; but his mother continued to hold the farm, and was, in this manner, enabled to bring up her family, consisting of two other sons and a daughter, besides William, who was the youngest. Her other sons, indeed, were soon old enough to take the chief part of her charge from her hands. William was taught, in the mean time, to read and write Welsh; and this was all the education which he seems to have received. When about the age of fifteen, he first began to employ himself in repairing the stone fences on the farm; and in this humble species of masonry he soon acquired uncommon expertness. The excellent work he made, and the despatch with which he finished it, at last attracted the notice of the neighboring farmers; and they advised his brothers to keep him at this business, and to let him employ his skill, when wanted, on other farms, as well as their own. After this he was for some time constantly engaged; and he regularly added his earnings to the common stock of the family.

Hitherto, the only sort of building, which he had practised, or had seen practised, was merely stone-masonry

without mortar. But at length it happened that some masons came to the parish to erect a shed, for shoeing horses, near a smith's shop. William contemplated the operations of these architects with the liveliest interest, and he used to stand by them for hours while they were at work, taking note of every movement which they made. A circumstance, which at once struck him, was that they used a different description of hammer from what he had been accustomed to employ; and perceiving its superiority, he immediately procured one of the same kind, for himself. With this he found he could build his walls both more rapidly and more neatly than he had been wont to do. But it was not long after he had, for the first time in his life, an opportunity of seeing how houses were erected, that he undertook to build one himself. It was a workshop for a neighbor; and he performed his task in such a manner as gained him great applause. Very soon after this, he was employed to erect a mill, by which he still further increased his reputation. He was now accounted the best workman in that part of the country, and being highly esteemed for integrity and fidelity to his engagements, as well as for his skill, he had as much employment in his line of a common builder as he could undertake. In his twenty-seventh year, however, he was induced to engage in an enterprize of a much more difficult and important character than anything which he had hitherto attempted. Through his native parish runs a river called the Taff, which flows into the estuary of the Severn. It was proposed to throw a bridge over this river at a particular spot, where it crossed the line of an intended road; but to this design difficulties of a somewhat formidable nature presented themselves, owing both to the great breadth of the water, and the frequent swellings to which it was subject. Mountains, covered with wood, rose to a considerable height, from both its banks;

which first attracted and detained every approaching cloud, and then sent down its contents in torrents into the river. Edwards, however, undertook the task of constructing the proposed bridge, though it was the first work of the kind in which he had ever engaged. Accordingly, in the year 1746, he set to work; and in due time, completed a very light and elegant bridge, of three arches, which, notwithstanding that it was the work of both an entirely self-taught, and an equally untravelled artist, was acknowledged to be superior to anything of the kind in Wales. So far his success had been as perfect as anything which could be desired. But his undertaking was far from being yet finished. He had both through himself and his friends given security that the work should stand for seven years; and for the first two and a half years of this term, all went on well. There then occurred a flood of extraordinary magnitude; not only the torrents came down from the mountains, in their accustomed channels, but they brought along with them trees of the largest size, which they had torn up by the roots: and these, detained as they floated along by the middle piers of the new bridge, formed a dam there; the waters accumulating behind, at length burst from their confinement, and swept away the whole structure. This was no light misfortune in every way to poor Edwards; but he did not suffer himself to be disheartened by it, and he immediately proceeded as his contract bound him to do, to the erection of another bridge. He now determined, however, to span the whole width of the river, by a single arch of the unexampled magnitude of one hundred and forty feet from pier to pier. He finished the erection of this stupendous arch in 1751, and had only to add the parapets, when he was doomed once more to behold his bridge sink into the water over which he had raised it, the extraordinary weight of the masonry having forced up the key-stones, and, of course, at once deprived

the arch of what sustained its equipoise. Heavy as was this second disappointment to the hopes of the young architect, it did not shake his courage any more than the former had done. The reconstruction of his bridge, for the third time, was immediately begun with unabated spirit and confidence. Still determined to adhere to his last plan of a single arch, he had now thought of an ingenious contrivance for diminishing the enormous weight which had formerly forced the key-stone out of its place. In each of the large masses of masonry, called the *haunches* of the bridge, being the parts immediately above the two extremities of the arch, he opened three cylindrical holes, which not only relieved the central part of the structure from all over-pressure, but greatly improved its general appearance in point of lightness and elegance. This bridge was finished in 1755; the whole undertaking having occupied the architect about nine years in all; and it has stood ever since.

This bridge, at the time of its erection, was the largest stone-arch known to exist in the world. Since that time, stone arches of extraordinary dimensions have been built—such as the five arches composing the splendid Pont de Neuilly over the Seine near Paris, the span of each of which is a hundred and twenty-eight feet—the island bridge over the Liffey, near Dublin, which is a single arch of a hundred and six feet in width—the bridge over the Tees, at Winston, in Yorkshire, which is also a single arch of a hundred and eight feet nine inches in width, and which was built by John Johnson, a common mason, at a cost of only five hundred pounds—and the nine elliptical arches, each of a hundred and twenty feet span, forming the magnificent Waterloo bridge, over the Thames, at London. A bridge is now building at Chester, which is the largest single arch in the world, being two hundred feet span.

At Bishop's Wearmouth, in the county of Durham, there

is a *cast iron* bridge, over the river Wear, the chord of the arch of which is two hundred and forty feet long. The Southwark or Trafalgar bridge, over the Thames at London is, at present, the finest iron bridge in the world. It consists of three arches. The chord of the middle arch is two hundred and forty feet long. There is a *timber* bridge over the Delaware, near Trenton, in New Jersey, which is the segment of a circle three hundred and forty-five feet in diameter. The timber bridge over the Schuylkill, at Philadelphia, is of the extraordinary span of three hundred and forty feet. The bridge over the Piscataqua, near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is the segment of a circle six hundred feet in diameter.

The bridge, built by Edwards over the Taff, buttressed as it is at each extremity by lofty mountains, while the water flows in full tide beneath it, at the distance of thirty-five feet, presents an aspect very striking and magnificent.

This bridge spread the fame of Edwards over all the country. He afterwards built many bridges in South Wales, having their arches formed of segments of much larger circles, and consequently much more convenient. He found his way to this improvement entirely by his own experience and sagacity: as indeed he may be said to have done in regard to all the knowledge which he possessed in his art. Even his principles of common masonry, he used himself to declare, he had learned chiefly from his studies among the ruins of an old gothic castle in his native parish.

Edwards was likewise a farmer, to the end of his days. Such, moreover, was his unwearied activity that, not satisfied with his week-day labors in these two capacities, he also officiated on the Sabbath as pastor to an Independent congregation, having been regularly ordained to that office when he was about thirty years of age, and holding it till his death. He accepted the usual salary from his congre-

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gation, considering it right that they should support their minister; but instead of putting the money into his own pocket, he returned it all, and often much more, in charity to the poor. He always preached in Welsh, though early in life he had made himself acquainted with the English language, having acquired it under the tuition of a blind old schoolmaster, in whose house he once lodged for a short time, while doing some work at the county town of Cardiff. In this effort he showed all his characteristic assiduity.

He died in 1789, in the 70th year of his age. His eldest son David, became also an eminent architect and bridge-builder, though he had no other instruction in his profession, than what his father had given him. David's eldest son also inherited the genius of his father and grandfather.

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD.

Robert Bloomfield, the author of the 'Farmer's Boy,' was born in 1766, at a small village in Suffolk, England. His father died before Robert was a year old. His mother was left with the charge of five other children. In these circumstances, in order to obtain a maintenance for herself and her family, she opened a school, and, of course, taught her own children the elements of reading, along with those of her neighbors. The only school education which Robert ever received, in addition to what his mother gave him, was two or three months instruction in writing at a school in the town of Ixworth. At the time when he was sent to this seminary, he was in his seventh year; and he was taken away so soon in consequence of the second marriage of his mother. Her new husband, probably, did not choose to be at any expense in educating the children of his predecessor.

We have no account in what manner Robert spent his time from his seventh to his eleventh year; but at this age he was taken into the service of a brother of his mother, a Mr. Austin, who was a respectable farmer on the lands of the duke of Grafton. His uncle treated him exactly as he did his other servants, but that was kindly, and just as he treated his own sons. Robert, like all the rest of the household, labored as hard as he was able; but on the

other hand, he was comfortably fed and lodged, although his board seems to have been all he received for his work. His mother undertook to provide him with the few clothes which he needed, and this was more than she well knew how to do. Indeed she found so much difficulty in fulfilling her engagement, that she at length wrote to two of her eldest sons, who were employed in London as shoemakers, requesting them to assist her, by trying to do something for their brother, who "was so small of his age," she added, "that Mr. Austin said that he was not likely to be able to get his living by hard labor." To this application her son George wrote in reply, that if she would let Robert come to town, he would teach him to make shoes, and his other brother, Nathaniel, would clothe him. The anxious and affectionate mother assented to this proposal; but she could not be satisfied without accompanying her son to the metropolis, and putting him herself into his brother's hands. "She charged me," writes Mr. George Bloomfield, "as I valued a mother's blessing, to watch over him, to set good examples for him, and never to forget that he had lost his father."

When Robert came to London he was in his fifteenth year. What acquaintance he had with books, at this time, is not stated, but it must have been extremely scanty. We find no notice, indeed, of his having been in the habit of reading at all, while he was with Mr. Austin. The place in which the boy was received by his two brothers, was a garret in a Court in Bell Alley, Coleman Street, where they had two *turn-up* beds, and five of them worked together. "As we were all single men," says George, "lodgers at a shilling per week each, our beds were coarse, and all things far from being clean and snug, like what Robert had left at Sapiston. Robert was our man to fetch all things to hand. At noon he brought our dinners from the cook's shop; and any one of our fellow workmen,

that wanted to have anything brought in, would send Robert, and assist in his work, and teach him for a recompense for his trouble. Every day when the boy from the public house came for the pewter pots, and to learn what porter was wanted, he always brought the yesterday's newspaper. The reading of this newspaper, we had been used to take by turns; but after Robert came, he mostly read for us, because his time was of the least value." The writer goes on to state, that in this his occupation of reader of the newspapers, Robert frequently met with words which were new to him, and which he did not understand, a circumstance of which he often complained. So one day his brother, happening to see, on a book-stall, a small English dictionary, which had been very ill used, bought it for him, for four-pence. This volume was to Robert a valuable treasure; and by consulting and studying it, he soon learned to comprehend perfectly, whatever he read. The pronunciation of some of the hard words, however, caused him much trouble; but by an auspicious circumstance he was at length put into the way of having his difficulties here also considerably diminished. One Sabbath evening, he and his brother chanced to walk into a dissenting meeting-house in the Old Jewry, where an individual of great popularity and talent was delivering a discourse. This was Mr. Fawcet. His manner was highly rhetorical. Robert was so much struck by his oratory, that from this time, he made a point of regularly attending the chapel every Sabbath evening. In addition to the higher improvement of Mr. Fawcet's discourses, he learnt from him the proper accentuation of difficult words, which he had little chance of hearing pronounced elsewhere. He also accompanied his brother sometimes, though not often, to a debating society. Besides the newspapers, too, he at this time read aloud to his brothers and their fellow workmen several books of considerable

extent—a history of England, British traveller, and a geography—a sixpenny number of each of which in folio, they took in every week. Robert spent in this way about as many hours every week in reading, as boys generally do in play.

These studies, even though somewhat reluctantly applied to by Robert, doubtless had considerable effect in augmenting the boy's knowledge, and otherwise enlarging his mind. But it was a work different from any of those which have been mentioned, which first awakened his literary genius. "I at this time," says Mr. George Bloomfield, "read the London Magazine, and in that work about two sheets were set apart for a Review. Robert seemed always eager to read this Review. Here he could see what the literary men were doing, and learn how to judge of the merits of the works which came out; and I observed that he always looked at the poet's corner. One day he repeated a song which he composed to an old tune. I was much surprised that he should make so smooth verses; so I persuaded him to try whether the editor of our paper would give them a place in the poet's corner. He succeeded, and they were printed. After this, Bloomfield contributed other pieces to the same publication into which his verses had been admitted; and under the impulse of its newly kindled excitement, his mind would seem to have suddenly made a start forwards, which could not escape the observation of his associates. His brother and fellow workmen in the garret, began to get instruction from him. Shortly after, upon removing to other lodgings, they found themselves in the same apartment with a singular character; a person named James Kay, a native of Dundee. He was a middle aged man, and of a good understanding. He had many books, and some which he did not value; such as The Seasons, Paradise Lost, and some novels. These books he lent to Robert, who spent all his leisure hours

in reading.] In this book he took great delight. This [illegible] him, in all probability, with the thought of composing a long poem on rural subjects. The design was also favored, in some degree, by a visit of two months, which he was induced to pay about this time to his native district. On this occasion, his old master, Mr. Austin, kindly invited him to make his house his home; and the opportunity he thus had of reviewing, with a more informed eye, the scenes in which he had spent his early years, could hardly fail to act, with a powerful effect, in exciting his imagination. It was at last arranged that he should be taken as an apprentice by his brother's landlord, who was a freeman of the city; and he returned to London. He was at this time eighteen years of age. It was not intended that his master should ever avail himself of the power which the indentures gave him, and he behaved in this matter very honorably. Robert, in two years more, learnt to work very expertly at the shoemaking business. For some years after this, his literary performances seem to have amounted merely to a few effusions in verse, which he used generally to transmit in letters to his brother, who had now gone to live at Bury St. Edmunds, in his native county. Meanwhile he studied music, and became a good player on the violin.

About this time he was married, and hired a room in the second story of a house in Coleman Street. The landlord gave him leave to work at his trade in the light garret two pair of stairs higher.

It was while he sat plying his trade in the garret, in Bell Alley, with six or seven other workmen around him, that Bloomfield composed the work which first made his talents generally known, and for which principally he continues to be remembered,—his 'Farmer's Boy.' It is a very interesting fact, that, notwithstanding the many elements of disturbance and interruption in the midst of which the

author must, in such a situation, have had to proceed through his task, nearly the half of this poem was completed before he committed a line of it to paper. This is an uncommon instance both of memory and of self-abstraction. His feat, on this occasion, appears to have amounted to the composing and recollecting of nearly six hundred lines, without the aid of any record; the production of all this poetry, in the circumstances which have been mentioned, perhaps deserves to be accounted a still more wonderful achievement than its retention.

When the 'Farmer's Boy' was finished, in April, 1788, it was submitted to several booksellers and other persons in London, none of whom, however, probably took the trouble of even examining the unrecommended production. At last, in November of the same year, it was forwarded by Mr. George Bloomfield to the late Mr. Capel Lofft, who then resided on his estate in the immediate neighborhood of the poet's birth place. The poem was accompanied by a letter containing the narrative of the author's life. Induced, probably in part, to look into the manuscript by the circumstance of its being a production of a native of Suffolk, Mr. Lofft soon found the work to be well deserving of attention on its own account. He immediately entered into correspondence with the author; and the result was the publication of the poem, in the month of March, 1800, after a few provincialisms and grammatical errors, by which it was disfigured, had been corrected. It immediately became very popular, owing in part, doubtless, to the extraordinary circumstances in which it was produced, but very much to its intrinsic merits. Within the first three years after its appearance, seven editions, comprising in all twenty-six thousand copies, had been printed; and new impressions have since been repeatedly called for. It was early translated into French, and Italian, and a part of it into Latin. "It derives its principal value from its

strict adherence to truth and nature. The writer, in fact, has drawn his own portrait in the 'Farmer's Boy,' and described the scenes and events which he actually witnessed. Hence, there is a degree of spirit and originality in the poem which renders it very pleasing. The versification is uncommonly smooth and correct." Bloomfield also wrote a volume entitled 'Wild Flowers,' which was well received, and was not unworthy of his reputation. His latest work, 'Hazlewood Hall,' a village drama, does not possess much merit. Bloomfield was patronized by the duke of Grafton, who bestowed on him a small annuity, and made him an under sealer in the seal office. It is gratifying to know that those excellent and affectionate relations, his mother and brother, both lived to witness the prosperity of him who had been to each, in other days, the object of so much anxious care. It was the dearest of the poet's gratifications, when his book was printed, to present a copy of it to his mother, to whom upon that occasion, he had it in his power, for the first time, to pay a visit, after twelve years' absence from his native village.

His situation in the seal office he was forced to resign, on account of ill health. He then worked again at his trade as a shoe-maker, and employed himself in constructing Æolian harps. Engaging in the book-trade, he became a bankrupt, and, in the latter part of his life, was afflicted with violent head-aches, and became nearly blind. His death took place on the 19th of August, 1823, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

THOMAS SCOTT.

It is not our object to write the life, or even to abridge the interesting Memoir of this venerated man. We shall simply collect such facts as bear on the design of our present undertaking, incorporating such remarks as may seem timely and important.

"My father," says Dr. Scott "was a grazier, a man of a small and feeble body, but of uncommon energy of mind and vigor of intellect; by which he surmounted, in no common degree, the almost total want of education. His circumstances were very narrow, and for many years he struggled with urgent difficulties. But he rose above them, and, though never affluent, his credit was supported, and he lived in more comfortable circumstances to the age of seventy-six years. He had thirteen children, ten of whom lived to maturity; and my eldest brother was twenty-three years older than my youngest sister. Having been taught, principally by my mother, to read fluently and to spell accurately, I learned the first elements of Latin at Burgh, two miles off, at a school to which, for a while, I went as a day scholar. But at eight years of age I was sent to Bennington, a village about four miles north of Boston, where my father had a grazing farm, that I might attend a school in the parish kept by a clergyman. Here I continued about two years; and, in addition to writing,

and the first rudiments of arithmetic, I learned a little Latin, at my master's desire, who thought he saw in me a turn for that kind of learning. He had, as I recollect, no other Latin scholar."

About this time his eldest brother, who was a surgeon in the navy, died. "My father," continues the narrative, "felt this event, as, in every way, a most heavy affliction. He determined, however, if possible, to have a son in the medical profession; and, as I was thought of the proper age, and seemed capable of readily learning Latin, I was selected. From this time my attention was almost entirely directed to that language; and, at different places, I got a superficial knowledge of several books generally read at schools; which gave the appearance of far greater proficiency than I had actually made. At ten years of age I was sent to Scorton, where my brother had been before me: and there I remained five years, without returning home, or seeing any relation or acquaintance. The whole expense of boarding and clothing me amounted to £14 a year; two guineas were paid for teaching, books being found; there were some extra charges for writing, arithmetic, and French, and some expenses for medical assistance; but I have often heard my father mention that I cost him £17 a year for five years. I think he must have underrated the sum, but I am fully satisfied that £100 more than covered all the charges of the five years: and this was all the cost of my education.

"The Rev. John Noble was head-master of the school at Scorton. He had been, in his day, indisputably, an able teacher of the learned languages: but at this time he was old and lethargic; and, though still assiduous, was most grossly imposed upon by the boys, and by none more than by myself. When I arrived at Scorton, I was asked what Latin books I had read; and my answer induced the usher to overrate my proficiency, and to place

me in a class much beyond my superficial attainments. This, however, stimulated me to close application, and it was not very long before I overtook my class-mates, and with ease accompanied them. Had I then, been again pushed forward, I might have been excited to persevering diligence; but as I could appear with laudable credit, without much application; partly by actual proficiency, and partly by imposing on Mr. Noble, under whose care I now came; my love of play, and my scarcity of money for self-indulgent expenses, induced me to divide a great proportion of my time between diversion and helping other boys in their exercises, for a very scanty remuneration, which I lost in gaming, or squandered in gratifying my appetite. One thing is remarkable, considering what has since taken place, that, while I could translate Latin into English, or English into Latin, perhaps more readily and correctly than any other boy in the school, I never could compose themes. I absolutely seemed to have no *ideas*, when set to work of this kind, either then or for some years afterwards; and was even greatly at a loss to write a common letter. As for verses, I never wrote any except *nonsense* verses, of one kind or other; which has perhaps been the case also of many more prolific versifiers. God had not made me a poet, and I am very thankful that I never attempted to make myself one."

Soon after leaving school, he was bound apprentice to a surgeon and apothecary at Alford, about eight miles from Braytoft, his father's residence. His master, it appears, was entirely *unprincipled*, and young Scott followed closely in his steps. At the end of two months, he was sent home in deep disgrace for gross misconduct. Though this was a severe mortification to his father and to the whole family, yet the course pursued towards him seems to have been unjustifiably severe, and even cruel.

"Immediately on my return home," continues Mr.

Scott, "I was set to do, as well as I could, the most laborious and dirty parts of the work belonging to a grazier. On this I entered at the beginning of winter; and as much of my father's farm consisted of low land, which was often flooded, I was introduced to scenes of hardship, and exposed to many dangers from wet and cold, for which my previous habits had not prepared me. In consequence I was frequently ill, and, at length, suffered such repeated and obstinate maladies that my life was more than once despaired of. Yet a kind of indignant, proud self-revenge, kept me from complaining of hardship; though of reproach and even of reproof, I was impatient to the greatest degree of irascibility. After a few unsuccessful attempts, my father gave up all thoughts of placing me out in any other way; and for above nine years I was nearly as entire a drudge as any servant or laborer in his employ; and almost as little known beyond the circle of immediate neighbors. My occupation was generally about the cattle, and particularly in the spring season. In this service I learned habits of hardiness in encountering all sorts of weather, (for the worse the weather, the more needful it was that I should be with the sheep,) which have since proved useful to me; and though I was not kept from learning many vices, I was out of the way of acquiring habits of ease and indulgence, as I should otherwise, probably, have done. My situation, however, led me to associate with persons of the lowest station of life, and wholly destitute of religious principle—in all ranks the grand corrective, and in this rank almost the sole restraint upon character and manners. These persons tried to please me with flatteries, and to inflame still more the indignancy of spirit with which I rebelled against the supposed degradation that I suffered."

Still he entertained thoughts of the University and of the clerical profession. He fondly cherished the hope of

one day rising fron the degradation to which he was condemned. Hence, in some of the winter evenings he used to read whatever books he could procure. But strange to say, his father, though himself a studious and inquisitive man, was wholly opposed to the gratification of the literary propensity of his son, judging it to be wholly inconsistent with diligence in his business. He used to say frequently that he foresaw that his son would come to be a charge to the parish.

This conduct of his father greatly strengthened him to spend his leisure time from home, and often in low and abandoned company. Another impediment was the almost entire want of books. A few torn Latin books, a small imperfect Dictionary, and an Eton Greek Grammar, composed his whole stock in the languages.

Mr. Scott had only one surviving brother, and he was well situated on a farm. His father was far advanced in life, and not of a strong constitution. It was generally supposed that Thomas would succeed to the estate. "But at length," says the narrative, "it was discovered that the lease of this farm was left by will to my brother; and that I was merely to be under-tenant to him for some marsh-grazing lands, which were without a house, and on which I knew a family could not be decently maintained. On this discovery, I determined to make some effort to extricate myself; and I only waited for an opportunity to declare my determination. Without delay my Greek Grammar was studied through and through; and I made what use I could of my Latin books; my father, in the mean time, expressing his astonishment at my conduct.

"At length, in April, 1772, in almost the worst manner possible, after a long wet day of incessant fatigue, I deemed myself, and perhaps with justice, to be causelessly and severely blamed, and I gave full vent to my indignant passions; and throwing aside my shepherd's frock, de-

cluded my purpose no more to resume it. That night I lodged at my brother's, at a little distance; but, in the morning, I considered that a large flock of sheep had no one to look after them, who was competent to the task; I therefore returned and did what was needful; and then set off for Boston, where a clergyman resided, with whom I had contracted some acquaintance, by conversing with him on common matters, when he came to do duty in my brother's village, and took refreshments at his house.

"To this clergyman I opened my mind with hesitancy and trepidation; and nothing could exceed his astonishment when he heard my purpose of attempting to obtain orders. He knew me only as a shepherd, somewhat more conversable, perhaps, than others in that station, and immediately asked, 'Do you know anything of Latin and Greek?' I told him I had received an education, but that for almost ten years, I had not seen a Greek book, except the Grammar. He instantly took down a Greek Testament, and put it into my hands; and without difficulty I read several verses, giving both the Latin and English rendering of them, according to the custom of our school. On this, having strongly expressed his surprise, he said, 'Our visitation will be next week; the archdeacon, Dr. Gordon, will be here; and if you will be in the town I will mention you to him, and induce him, if I can, to send for you.' This being settled, I returned immediately to my father for the intervening days; knowing how much, at that season, he wanted my help, for services which he could no longer perform himself, and was not accustomed to entrust to servants."

In a letter to his sisters, which he wrote about this time, he says, "My aunt Wayet endeavored to rally me out of my scheme, but I must own I thought her arguments weak. She urged the ridicule which *poor parsons* meet

with; but surely, those who ridicule any one on account of his poverty, if he behaves in a manner worthy of his situation, are themselves persons whose opinion I despise. She said she would not be of any profession, unless at the head of it; but this can be no rule for general practice, as some must be subordinate. She mentioned my not being brought up in a regular manner; but it is the end, not the means, which is of the greatest consequence; and if a man be qualified, it matters not where he procured his qualifications. It sometimes humbles my vanity to hear them all account of me as one of the lowest order of the profession, not only in point of fortune, but also in other particulars. If I know myself, I am not deficient in abilities, though I am in the art of rendering them conspicuous; my vanity prompts me to say, that I am not without hopes of making friends in this way of life, as I shall be more conversant with men of letters, who are the companions I most delight in, and for whose company I shall spare no pains to qualify myself. But let my condition in life be what it will, I will endeavor to suit myself to it. Pray heaven preserve me independent on any other for a livelihood, and I ask no more. The happiest hours I have ever spent, have been in your company, and the greatest reluctance I feel at this change of my situation is, the being separated from a set of sisters, for whom I have the most sincere regard.

"At the appointed time," continues the narrative, "I returned to Boston, where my family was well known, and readily found access to the archdeacon, who was also examining chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Green. Before him I repeated, in another part of the Greek Testament, what I had done at the clergyman's house; and was asked many questions, which I answered without the least disguise. The archdeacon concluded the interview,

by asuring me that he would state my case to the bishop, and saying that he thought it probable his lordship would ordain me.

"Thus encouraged, I expended all the little money which I could raise, on books; went to live at Boston; and applied diligently to study—especially to improve my knowledge of the Greek Testament, (the Gospels in particular,) and to recover, or rather to acquire the ability of composing in Latin. I had now for some years been ready in expressing my thoughts, and had even been, in some instances, a writer in newspapers and magazines. I daily, therefore, wrote in Latin, on texts of Scripture, a sort of short sermons, which my friend, the clergyman, revised; and, in return, I afforded him very seasonable and welcome assistance in a grammar school which he taught."

His first attempt to gain ordination was, however, unsuccessful. His papers had not reached the ordaining bishop in season, and other circumstances were unsatisfactory. This repulse induced in the bosom of the applicant, a kind of despair. The bishop had said that he should probably admit him at the next ordination, provided he would procure his father's consent to the measure, and a letter from any beneficed clergyman in the neighborhood. But he was not personally known to half a dozen clergymen of the description required; and his attempt was utterly reprobated by every one of them as in a high degree presumptuous. He was now in the twenty-sixth year of his age, wholly without the prospect of a decent subsistence, and to complete the appalling prospect, his father was most decidedly set against the design.

But an energy, such as Thomas Scott had, could not be repressed. The fire, which was burning in his bosom, no adverse circumstances could extinguish. He had made

up his mind to accomplish the work, and it would seem that no human power could stay him.

He travelled to his home from London, by a circuitous route, and a great part of the way on foot, and the rest in various vehicles. At length he reached Braytoft, after walking twenty miles in the forenoon; having dined, and divested himself of his clerical dress, he resumed his shepherd's clothes, and in the afternoon, sheared eleven large sheep!

"This, however," he observes, "was my last labor of the kind. My attempt to obtain orders had been widely made known in the neighborhood, even much beyond the sphere of my personal acquaintance; and it had excited much attention and astonishment, with no small degree of ridicule. This raised the spirit of my relations; and the sentiment expressed by my brother, was that of the other branches of the family. 'I wish,' said he, 'my brother had not made the attempt; but I cannot bear to have it said, that one of our name undertook what he was unable to accomplish.'

"In consequence of this sensation, my brother and all my sisters met by appointment at my father's house; and, with my mother, urged it in the most earnest manner, as his indispensable duty, either to consent to my ordination, or to fix me on a farm on my own account. I apprehend it was clearly foreseen what his concession would be, if he could be induced to concede at all; and accordingly, after much debate, he gave his consent in writing to my entering into orders.

"As the difficulty, which I regarded as insuperable, was in a most unexpected manner, surmounted; and my hopes reviving, I was prepared to struggle over other obstacles, if possible. Despairing of obtaining a letter to the bishop from any of the beneficed clergymen, to whom, as

living within a few miles, I was in some degree known, I applied, without delay, to the vicar of Boston, Dr. Calthorp, who was well acquainted with my mother and her family, though he had seldom, if ever, seen me, till I met the archdeacon at his house. He behaved in the most candid manner; yet as a truly conscientious man, (which I believe he really was,) he said justly, that he could not sign my testimonial, or state anything concerning me from his own knowledge, except for the short time which had passed since I first came to his house; but that he could give a favorable account as to that time; and if I could procure attestations from any respectable persons, though not clergymen, he would transmit them with his own letter to the bishop. Thus encouraged, I went again to reside at Boston, where I applied diligently to my studies; but I was greatly frowned on by many of my relations; and I frequently heard the laugh of the boys, as I walked about the street in a brown coat, and with lank hair, pointing me out as the 'parson!'—if this were a species of persecution, it was certainly not for *Christ's sake*, or *for righteousness' sake*, for I was estranged from both at this time."

It is proper here to remark, that however valuable the traits of character were, which were exhibited by Mr. Scott, it is evident, and it is what he many times, and sorrowfully acknowledged in subsequent life, that he had not *that* character which is essential in the Christian ministry. He approached this sacred work as he would have approached either of the other professions. No spirit can be more foreign from the ministry of reconciliation than ambition, or disappointed pride, or that zeal which is enkindled by a sense of degradation, and a desire to rise superior to our fellow creatures, in order to show them the strength of our character, and the energy of our purpose. The Great Shepherd was meek and lowly, and

those only are accepted by him, who are willing t tread in his steps.

"At the ensuing ordination, I was admitted a candi date," continues Mr. Scott, "without objection, and wa examined at Buckden, by Dr. Gordon. After examina tion on other matters, he asked me numerous question concerning the nature of miracles; how real miracle might be distinguished from counterfeit ones; and hov they proved the truth of the doctrine in support of whic they were wrought. This was, indeed, almost the onl theological topic which I had studied with any tolerabl attention. He, however, perceived that I began to b alarmed, and kindly said, 'You need not be uneasy; only wished to try of what you were capable; and I per ceive that Christianity has got an able advocate in you. I could not find myself at liberty to suppress this remark able attestation, which is, I believe, expressed exactly i the words he used; but had he known either my creed and the state of my heart at that time, or whither my sub sequent inquiries would ultimately lead me, I am persuade he would not have spoken as he did."

Mr. Scott, immediately after his ordination, entered o his duties as a curate for Stoke, and for Weston Under wood, in Buckinghamshire. "No sooner," says Mr Scott, "was I fixed in a curacy, than with close applica tion I sat down to the study of the learned languages, an such other subjects as I considered most needful in orde to lay the foundation of my future advancement. I spare no pains, I shunned, as much as I well could, all acquaint ance and diversions, and retrenched from my usual hours o sleep, that I might keep more closely to this business."

In a period of nine months he read through the entir works of Josephus in the original Greek. In a letter t one of his sisters, dated September 18, 1773, he remarks "I have, for some time, pursued my studies with assiduity

but I have got to pursue them with method. I am now a..... three hours in the day engaged in Hebrew. The books I use are a Hebrew Bible, Grammars, and Lexicons, the noted Septuagint, or Greek translation, and a Commentary. I began at the first chapter of Genesis, and I intend to go through the whole Bible in that manner. You will see the manifold advantages of thus reading the Scriptures. The original text, a Greek translation two thousand years old and above, our translation, and comments, read carefully, and compared together word by word, cannot fail to give a deep insight into the sense of the Scriptures; and at the same time, two languages are unitedly improving. The same I am doing in the Greek and profane history. I am reading old Herodotus, in the original, in Latin, and in English. For each book read, whether ancient or modern history, I have my maps laid before me, and trace each incident by the map; and in some degree also fix the chronology. So that the languages seem my principal study; history, geography, and chronology, go hand in hand. Neither is logic neglected. I find my taste for study grow every day. I only fear I shall be like the miser, too covetous. In fact I really grudge every hour that I employ otherwise. Others go out by choice, and stay at home by constraint; but I never stay at home by constraint, and go out because it is necessary. In every other expense I am grown a miser; I take every method to save, but here I am prodigal. No cost do I in the least grudge, to procure advantageous methods of pursuing my studies. Of the Hebrew, some twenty weeks ago I knew not a letter; and I have now read through one hundred and nineteen of the Psalms, and twenty-three chapters of Genesis; and commonly now read two chapters in the time above mentioned, tracing every word to its original, unfolding every verbal difficulty."

At the same time the more appropriate duties of his

calling were not neglected. He generally wrote two sermons in a week, and, in one instance, in the course of three weeks, wrote seven sermons, each thirty-five minutes long.

For a few of the following years, Mr. Scott was employed on subjects of an exclusively religious nature, and deeply affecting his personal feelings and character. At length he became established in the hopes of the gospel of Christ, and thenceforward his path was illuminated with the light of eternal life. But there was no change in the vigor of his mind, and the unconquerable perseverance of his character. His reading became as various as he had the opportunity of making it. No book that furnished knowledge, which might be turned to account, was uninteresting to him. As an example, he read repeatedly Mr. Henry Thornton's work on Paper Credit, having in some measure been prepared for the subject, by his former study of Locke's Treatises on Money, &c. At a much later period also he felt himself deeply interested in reading the Greek Tragedians, and other classic authors, with his pupils. He earnestly desired to see the branches of literature rendered subservient to religion; and thought that, while too much perhaps, was published directly upon theological subjects, there was a lamentable deficiency of literary works conducted upon sound Christian principles.

The following extract exhibits an interesting trait in his character. "After I had written my sermons for the Sunday, I, for a long time, constantly read them to my wife before they were preached. At her instance, I altered many things, especially in exchanging words, unintelligible to laborers and lace-makers, for simpler language."

Between the year 1807, and 1814, Dr. Scott was the tutor of persons preparing to go out as missionaries, under

the Church Missionary Society. The individuals who came under his instruction, were in general German Lutheran clergymen. All of them went forth as missionaries into the heathen world; and most of them are now usefully employed in that character. The progress which they made in their studies was highly creditable, in some instances remarkable. "With all my other engagements," says Dr. Scott, "I am actually, in addition to what I before taught the missionaries, reading Susoo and Arabic with them. The former we have mastered without difficulty, so far as the printed books go; and hope soon to begin translating some chapters into the language. But, as to the latter, we make little progress; yet so far, that I have no doubt of being able to read the Koran with them, should they continue here. It is in itself a most difficult language, but my knowledge of the Hebrew gives me an advantage."

This labor was accomplished when Dr. Scott was more than *sixty* years old. Perhaps there is hardly on record an instance of more vigorous application to the study of very difficult languages,—the student threescore years old, and suffering severely from chronic complaints. It is one of the proofs (would that they were far more numerous) of a successful effort to withstand the effects of age. The Hebrew, likewise, which was his auxiliary on this occasion, had been entirely resumed, and almost learned since his fifty-third year.

The history of the life of Dr. Scott teaches us a number of important lessons. It shows us that a resolute heart can vanquish many difficulties. Dr. Scott had a great variety of depressing and adverse circumstances with which to meet. He had strong and ungovernable passions. He was compelled to spend some of the best years of his life in an employment most uncongenial to mental improvement. He had very little of the ease and leisure

and delightful associations and poetry of a shepherd's life. He had the storms, the incessant anxiety, and the exhausting labors of the occupation. He fed his flocks, not among the green hills and vallies, but in low, marshy regions, altogether unfriendly to intellectual effort. He had also the disheartening remembrance of an early failure constantly before his mind. Of this failure his own misconduct too, was a principal cause. His father, with many valuable qualities, was stern and inexorable. His son had commenced an honorable profession, and had been disgraced, and he determined to keep him henceforward in a condition where neither his good nor bad conduct would be known, where at least the pride of the family would not again be wounded. Dr. Scott had also a rough and unpolished exterior. He had native vigor of mind, but little that was prepossessing in his first appearance, even after a long and familiar intercourse with enlightened society. But he urged his way over all these difficulties. The number of obstacles only called forth a more determined energy. He set his face forward, and all the appalling forms of discouragement could not divert him. Victory over one enemy gave him additional power to attack another. A servile employment, degraded companions, the pertinacious opposition of a father, the goading recollection of the past, a forbidding personal exterior, severe bodily infirmity, advancing age, the pressure of domestic duties, a miserable stipend for support—all, all could not dampen that ardor which engrossed and fired his soul.

Another valuable lesson, which we are taught by Dr. Scott's history, is that the highest possible motives of action, a regard to the will of our Maker, and the well being of mankind, are, at least, *as* operative and influential as any selfish and personal considerations. In the commencement of his intellectual career, Dr. Scott was labor-

ing for himself. Personal aggrandizement was the prize which he set before him, and which fixed his eye, quickened his step, filled his mind. But ere long the current of his desires was changed. The emotions and purposes which had gone abroad only to bring back to himself a fresh harvest of applause and reputation, went outward to the ends of the earth, and upward to the throne of God. Personal ambition gave place to the most expansive benevolence. Instead of living for himself and for his own times, he lived for other and future ages. But this change did not repress the ardor of his soul. It did not freeze up the living current there. He was as avaricious of time, when that time was devoted to the interests of his Redeemer, as when it was employed in gathering tributes of human admiration. He grappled as strongly and as perseveringly with the difficulties of a foreign language, when the hope of heaven and the honor of his Saviour were before his eye, as when splendid church preferment, or literary reputation were the idols to which he bowed in worship. This fact is one of great interest. It shows that the highest developement of the intellectual powers is in perfect accordance with the most disinterested and godlike benevolence, that human duty and human interest are perfectly coincident.

Dr. Scott furnishes a most remarkable instance of severe mental application till the very close of life. Amidst the pressure of disease, and of pain, which were almost unintermitted, his mind maintained a very vigorous and healthy action. At the age of *seventy-two* years, he remarks, "I never studied each day more hours than I now do. Never was a manufactory more full of constant employment than our house; five proof sheets of my Commentary a week to correct, and as many sheets of copy (quarto) to prepare." For about forty-six years he studied eight, ten, and sometimes fourteen hours a day. After thirty-three years' labor

bestowed on his Commentary of the Scriptures, he was a assiduous in correcting and improving it as ever. Th marginal references cost him seven years of hard labo When seventy years old, he engaged in a controversy wit a Jew on the fundamental questions in dispute betwee the Jews and Christians, and produced an original an highly interesting work in defence of the Christian faith At the age of sixty, a period at which it would generall be thought impracticable to acquire a foreign tongue, Dr Scott studied Arabic and Susoo—the latter an Africa dialect, and both exceedingly difficult languages to be mas tered. We rejoice in this instance of a man bearing frui in old age, triumphing over the pains and weakness o mortality, and retaining full mental power to the last mo ment of life. It shows what is possible to be done i numerous other cases. Many individuals intend to b useless, intend to gather themselves into a corner in in glorious ease, if God sees fit to spare their life beyond the age of threescore years. Dr. Scott reasoned and acted differently. His sun was almost as bright at setting, as in the morning or at the meridian. It sent forth the same powerful heat, and the same mild and steady light.

It is also very gratifying to see that the unconquerable energy and noble aim of this self-taught man, were not in vain. All this energy was expended on praiseworthy objects. He labored not for the sake of showing his decision of character, but of doing good with it. If he wasted little intellect by idleness, he wasted as little by misapplication. He brought the whole of his judgment, and discrimination, and strong sense, and fearless piety, and unsleeping mental power, to the promotion of human happiness. He was certainly one of the most useful men who ever lived.

The sale of his works, of plain didactic theology, during his life time, amounted to *two hundred thousand* pounds

sterling. Probably an equal sum has been expended for these same works since his death. Of his Commentary on the Scriptures, not less than *thirty-five thousand* copies have been sold in the United States alone, at a sum of at least *seven hundred thousand dollars*. Two stereotype editions of it have been published. The work is now, at the distance of thirty years from its publication, as popular and acceptable to the religious public as ever. The ANNUAL SALE is now, in this country, not less than fifteen hundred copies. What an amount of good has been accomplished by a single effort of this entirely self-taught man. At least one hundred thousand families gathering their views of the meaning of the Christian revelation from the comments of a single mind. This already amazing amount of good, is but a tithe of what will yet be seen. Wherever, on all the continents of this earth, the English language shall be spoken, and the English Bible shall be found, there the name of THOMAS SCOTT will be hailed as one of the most important benefactors of mankind.

LOTT CARY.

Oh Afric! what has been thy crime!
That thus like Eden's fratricide,
A mark is set upon thy clime,
And every brother shuns thy side.
Yet are thy wrongs, thou long distrest,
Thy burden, by the world unweighed,
Safe in that UNFORGETFUL BREAST
Where all the wrongs of earth are laid.
The sun upon thy forehead frowned,
But man more cruel far than he,
Dark fetters on thy spirit bound.
Look to the mansion of the free!
Look to that realm where chains unbind
Where powerless falls the threatening rod,
And where the patient sufferers find,
A friend, a father in their God.

Mrs. Sigourney.

SOME events, which have recently taken place in this country, have given a fresh interest to the cause of African Colonization. In the county of Southampton, Virginia, about sixty white persons fell victims in a negro insurrection, which occurred during the summer of 1831. A very serious alarm has been communicated in consequence to various portions of the southern country, and many apprehensions have been entertained of the repetition of similar tragedies. A practical, though fearful proof, has thus been given to the people of the United States, of the evil of the slave system. The danger has been shown to be real. It is no fictitious terror which has led the inhabitants of Virginia to consider more maturely and earnestly the plans of the American Colonization Society. Some-

thing must be done. An outlet for a part of the colored population must be provided at all hazards. By the late awful events, the providence of God is speaking to us most distinctly to weigh well this subject, and to act promptly in regard to it.

It seems to us that the American Colonization Society has now come to a most important period of its history—when a great movement can and ought to be made onward—when, to fulfil the palpable indications of Providence, it should lay aside all hindrances, and proceed to its great work with all the promptitude and wisdom possible. Such a course would furnish the best of all arguments wherewith to meet the numerous opposers of the Society. Plant on the African coast high and broad monuments of the feasibility of colonization. Erect along all the shore living confutations of the calumnies and of the grave objections which have been urged against this infant enterprise. Show practically that the well-being of the free-colored population of this country is one great object of the scheme, that when the African steps upon the Liberian shore, he is elevated in the scale of being, and rises into the dignity of true freedom. Write the eulogy of the Society in Africa, on her shores, in her spreading commerce, up her long rivers. When the voice of ignorance or ill-will assails this noble enterprize, let a thousand happy voices come over the Atlantic and deny the charge.

We do not ourselves place much confidence in the opposition or the indifference which is manifested towards the Colonization Society. It is not a selfish cold hearted policy, designed to remove the colored people against their inclinations and interest. It is an enterprise conceived in the most exalted benevolence, and in the most comprehensiveregards to the interests of mankind. It is not a plan of the North or the South. It looks to the well being of *two*

whole continents. In lawful and proper ways it would purify this land from a fearful and blighting curse. It would help to pour the light of eternal life on the whole of forlorn and lost Africa.

Looking at the principal friends of the American Colonization Society, we see no reason to impugn their motives. Were not Harper, and Caldwell, and Fitzhugh, men of sagacious mind, and of most expansive charity. Did not pity, real pity for the woes of the African race, fill the bosom of Mills, and Ashmun, and Sessions, and Randall, and Anderson? To call in question the benevolence of such men, does nothing more than to bring into doubt that of the objector. Examine the public documents, try the public measures of the Society with the most rigid scrutiny, and they will not be found wanting. Equally without foundation is the objection urged against the unhealthiness of the African climate. Not one half the mortality has been experienced at Liberia, which ravaged and almost desolated the early colonies of Virginia, New Plymouth, and Massachusetts. Let the forest be levelled, and pure air circulate, let all the marshes and stagnant waters be drained, let all the colonists avoid unnecessary exposure and fatigue, and let them utterly abandon all use of ardent spirits, and other stimulants, and we should hear little more of the mortality of Liberia. Temperate men can live and do live at Havana, at Batavia, at Calcutta, and at any other alledged unhealthy spot on the globe. Those places are the graves of Europeans, because a miserable police and intemperance have made them to be so. To these causes we unhesitatingly ascribe the greater part of the mortality which has prevailed at Liberia. Remove the cause and the effect will cease.

The plan of colonizing the colored people is not a chimerical one. There are abundant means for this purpose. An appropriation of *one million* of dollars annually to this

purpose, would transport such a number as would speedily accomplish the great work. This country will speedily be free from the public debt. She has several hundred millions of acres of land at her disposal. How perfectly within the compass of her ability to assist in the deliverance and return of the African race. The right constitutionally to render this assistance will hardly be denied, after the *Indian* precedent which has been given, after the liberal and lavish offers, which have been made, to induce the aboriginal inhabitants of this country to remove to an El Dorado in the wilderness.

The great, the fundamental difficulty, want of intellectual and moral preparation in the colored people, is not an insuperable one. There has been, indeed, a long process of degradation. Servile habits have been worn into the soul. The intellect of the Africans has been muffled and *bandaged* by law. Still they have minds. The spark of immortal life has been kindled in them by their beneficent Creator. They have the immaterial, responsible, expansive, ever aspiring principle. Remove the pressure of adverse circumstances, lay before them the proper motives, and they will spring into the path which leads to honor, and knowledge, and glory. The Creator has not doomed one portion of his intellectual offspring to everlasting seclusion from improvement. He has not buried them in one vast grave where the light of truth and joy and immortal hope will never reach them. Africa has had an Hanno, an Hannibal, a Juba, a Cyprian, an Augustine. Did not Africaner, who has been termed the South African Bonaparte, exhibit noble traits of character? Has not slavery itself furnished specimens of genius which would have done honor to the native hills and pure air of freedom? Who has not heard of the generous and affectionate strains of the self-taught Phillis Wheatley; of the noble spirit of

Citizen Granville of Hayti, and of the magnanimity of Prince Abdul Rahahhman.

In the year 1739, and for several years afterwards, Benjamin Banneker, a colored man of Maryland, furnished the public with an almanac, which was extensively circulated through the Southern States. He was a self-taught astronomer, and his calculations were so thorough and exact, as to excite the approbation and patronage of such men as Pitt, Fox, Wilberforce, and other eminent men, by whom the work was produced in the British House of Commons, as an argument in favor of the mental cultivation of colored people, and of their liberation from their wretched thraldom.

Another interesting instance of self-taught African genius, was LOTT CARY. He was born a slave in Charles City County, about thirty miles below Richmond, Virginia, on the estate of Mr. William A. Christian. His father was a pious and much respected member of the Baptist Church, and his mother, though she made no public profession of religion, died, giving evidence that she relied for salvation upon the merits of the Son of God. He was their only child, and though he had no early instruction from books, the admonitions and prayers of illiterate parents may have laid the foundations of his future usefulness. In 1804, he was sent to Richmond, and hired out by the year as a common laborer, at the Shockoe warehouse. A strong desire to be able to read, was excited in his mind, by a sermon which he heard, and which related to our Lord's interview with Nicodemus; and having obtained a Testament, he commenced learning his letters, by trying to read the chapter in which this interview is recorded. He was occasionally instructed by young gentlemen at the warehouse, though he never attended a regular school. In a little time he was able to

read, and also to write so as to make *dray* tickets, and superintend the shipping of tobacco. Shortly after the death of his first wife, in 1813, he ransomed himself and two children for $850, a sum which he had obtained by his singular ability and fidelity in managing the concerns of the tobacco warehouse. Of the real value of his services there, it has been remarked, "no one but a dealer in tobacco can form an idea." Notwithstanding the hundreds of hogsheads, which were committed to his charge, he could produce any one the moment it was called for; and the shipments were made with a promptness and correctness, such as no person, white or colored, has equalled in the same situation. The last year in which he remained in the warehouse his salary was $800. For his ability in his work he was highly esteemed and frequently rewarded by the merchant with a five dollar bank note. He was also allowed to sell, for his own benefit, many small parcels of damaged tobacco. It was by saving the little sums obtained in this way, with the aid of subscriptions by the merchants to whose interests he had been attentive, that he was enabled to purchase the freedom of his family. When the colonists were fitted out for Africa, he was enabled to bear a considerable part of his own expenses. He also purchased a house and some land in Richmond. It is said that while employed at the warehouse, he often devoted his leisure time to reading, and that a gentleman, on one occasion, taking up a book which he had left for a few moments, found it to be "Smith's Wealth of Nations." He remained, for some years, after his removal to Richmond, entirely regardless of religion, and much addicted to profane and vicious habits. But God was pleased to convince him of the guilt and misery of a sinful state, and in 1807, he publicly professed his faith in the Saviour, and became a member of the Baptist church. Soon after this period, he com-

menced the practice of conducting the services at religious meetings. Though he had scarcely any knowledge of books, and but little acquaintance with mankind, he would frequently exhibit a boldness of thought, and a strength of intellect which no acquirement could have ever given him. A distinguished minister of the Presbyterian church made the following remark. "A sermon, which I heard from Mr. Cary, shortly before he sailed for Africa, was the best extemporaneous sermon, which I ever heard. It contained very original and impressive thoughts, some of which are distinct in my memory, and never can be forgotten." The following sentences form the closing part of an extemporaneous address which he uttered on the eve of his departure. "I am about to leave you; and expect to see your faces no more. I long to preach to the poor Africans the way of life and salvation. I do not know what may befal me, or whether I may find a grave in the ocean, or among the savage men, or more savage wild beasts on the coast of Africa; nor am I anxious what may become of me. I feel it my duty to go; and I very much fear that many of those, who preach the gospel in this country, will blush when the Saviour calls them to give an account of their labors in his cause, and tells them, 'I commanded you to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,' and (with the most forcible emphasis he exclaimed) the Saviour may ask, Where have you been? What have you been doing? Have you endeavored to the utmost of your ability to fulfil the commands I gave you; or have you sought your own gratification and your own ease, regardless of my commands?"

As early as the year 1815, he began to feel special interest in the cause of African missions, and contributed, probably, more than any other person, in giving origin and character to the African Missionary Society, established

during that year in Richmond, and which has, for thirteen years, collected for the cause of missions in Africa, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars. His benevolence was practical, and whenever, and wherever good objects were to be effected, he was ready to lend his aid.

Mr. Cary was among the earliest emigrants to Africa. Here he saw before him a wide and interesting field, demanding various and powerful talents, and the most devoted piety. His intellectual ability, firmness of purpose, unbending integrity, correct judgment, and disinterested benevolence, soon placed him in a conspicuous station, and gave him wide and commanding influence. Though naturally diffident and retiring, his worth was too evident, to allow of his remaining in obscurity. It is well known that great difficulties were encountered in founding a settlement at Cape Montserado. So appalling were the circumstances of the first settlers, that soon after they had taken possession, it was proposed that they should remove to Sierra Leone. The resolution of Mr. Cary to remain was not to be shaken, and his decision had no small effect towards inducing others to imitate his example. In the event, they suffered severely. More than eight hundred natives attacked them in November, 1822, but were repulsed; and a few weeks after, a body of fifteen hundred attacked them again at day-break; several of the colonists were killed and wounded; but with only thirty-seven effective men and boys, and the aid of their six pounder, they again achieved a victory over the natives. In these scenes Mr. Cary necessarily bore a conspicuous part. In one of his letters he remarks, that like the Jews in rebuilding their city, they had to toil with their arms beside them, and rest upon their arms every night; but he declared after this, in the most emphatic terms, that "there never had been an hour or a minute, no, not even when the

balls were flying around his head, when he could wish himself back to America again."

The peculiar exposure of the early emigrants, the scantiness of their supplies, and the want of adequate medical attentions, subjected them to severe and complicated sufferings. To relieve, if possible, these sufferings, Mr. Cary obtained all the information in his power, concerning the diseases of the climate, and the proper remedies. He made liberal sacrifices of his property, in behalf of the poor and distressed; and devoted his time almost exclusively to the relief of the destitute, the sick, and the afflicted. His services as physician to the colony were invaluable; and were, for a long time, rendered without hope of reward. But amid his multiplied cares and efforts for the colony, he never forgot or neglected to promote the objects of the African Missionary Society, to which he had long cherished and evinced the strongest attachment. Most earnestly did he seek access to the native tribes, and endeavor to instruct them in the doctrines and duties of that religion, which had proved so powerful and precious in his own case. Many of his last and most anxious thoughts were directed to the establishment of native schools in the interior. One such school, distant seventy miles from Monrovia, and of great promise, was established through his agency, about a year before his death, and patronized and superintended by him till that mournful event.

In September, 1826, Mr. Cary was elected Vice Agent of the Colony, and discharged the duties of that important office till his death. In his good sense, moral worth, decision, and public spirit, Mr. Ashmun, the Agent, had the most entire confidence. Hence, when compelled to leave the colony, he committed the administration of affairs into the hands of the Vice Agent, in the full belief that no in-

terest would be betrayed, and no duty neglected. The conduct of Mr. Cary, while for six months he stood at the head of the colony, added to his previously high reputation.

On the evening of the 8th of November, 1828, while Mr. Cary, and several others, were engaged in making cartridges in the old agency house at Monrovia, in preparation to defend the rights of the colony against a slave-trader, a candle appears to have been accidentally overturned, which caught some loose powder, and almost instantaneously reached the entire ammunition, producing an explosion, which resulted in the death of eight persons. Mr. Cary survived for two days.

"The features and complexion of Mr. Cary's character were altogether African. He was diffident, and showed no disposition to push himself into notice. His words were simple, few, direct, and appropriate. His conversation indicated rapidity and clearness of thought, and an ability to comprehend the great principles of religion and government.

"To found a Christian colony, which might prove a blessed asylum to his degraded brethren in America, and enlighten and regenerate Africa, was an object with which no temporal good, not even life could be compared. The strongest sympathies of his nature were excited in behalf of his unfortunate people, and the divine promise cheered and encouraged him in his labors for their improvement and salvation. His record is on high. His memorial shall never perish. It shall stand in clearer light, when every chain is broken, and Christianity shall have assumed her sway over the millions of Africa."

JOHN OPIE.

JOHN OPIE was born in the parish of St. Agnes, about seven miles from Truro, in the county of Cornwall, England, in 1761. His father and grandfather were carpenters. John appears to have been regarded among his rustic companions as a kind of parochial wonder from his early years. At the age of twelve, he had mastered Euclid, and was considered so skilful in arithmetic and penmanship, that he commenced an evening school for the instruction of the peasants of the parish of St. Agnes. His father, a plain mechanic, seems to have misunderstood all these indications of mental superiority, and wished him to leave the pen for the plane and saw; and it would appear that his paternal desires were for some time obeyed, for John, at least accompanied his father to his work; but this was when he was very young, and it seems probable that he disliked the business, since his father had to chastise him for making ludicrous drawings, with red chalk, on the *deals* which were planed for use.

His love of art came upon him early. When he was ten years old, he saw Mark Oates, an elder companion, and afterwards captain of marines, draw a butterfly; he looked anxiously on, and exclaimed, "I think I can draw a butterfly as well as Mark Oates:" he took a pencil, tried, succeeded, and ran breathless home to tell his

mother what he had done. Soon afterward he saw a picture of a farmyard in a house in Truro where his father was at work; he looked and looked—went away—returned again and looked—and seemed unwilling to be out of sight of this prodigy. For this forwardness, his father gave him a sharp chastisement—but the lady of the house interposed, and gave the boy another sight of the picture. On returning home, he procured cloth and colors, and made a copy of the painting, from memory alone. He likewise attempted original delineation from life; and, by degrees, hung the humble dwelling round with likenesses of his relatives and companions, much to the pleasure of his uncle, a man with sense and knowledge above his condition, but greatly to the vexation of his father, who could not comprehend the merit of such an idle trade.

He was employed for some time, in the family of Dr. Wolcot, the satirist, as a menial servant. How long he remained in that employment is not known. He commenced portrait painting, by profession, very early in life. He used to wander from town to town in quest of employment. "One of these expeditions," says his biographer, "was to Padstow, whither he set forward, dressed as usual in a boy's plain short jacket, and carrying with him all proper apparatus for portrait painting. Here, among others, he painted the whole household of the ancient and respectable family of Prideaux, even to the dogs and cats of the family. He remained so long absent from home, that some uneasiness began to arise on his account, but it was dissipated by his returning, dressed in a handsome coat, with very long skirts, laced ruffles, and silk stockings. On seeing his mother he ran to her, and taking out of his pocket twenty guineas which he had earned by his pencil, he desired her to keep them, adding that in future he should maintain himself."

For his mother, he always entertained the deepest af-

fection—and neither age nor the pressure of worldly business diminished his enthusiasm in the least. He loved to speak of the mildness of her nature and the tenderness of her heart—of her love of truth and her maternal circumspection. He delighted to recal her epithets of fondness, and relate how she watched over him when a boy, and warmed his gloves and great coat in the winter mornings, on his departure for school. This good woman lived to the age of ninety-two, enjoyed the fame of her son, and was gladdened with his bounty.

Of those early efforts, good judges have spoken with much approbation; they were deficient in grace, but true to nature, and remarkable for their fidelity of resemblance. He painted with small pencils, and finished more highly than when his hand had attained more mastery. His usual price, when he was sixteen years of age, was seven shillings and sixpence for a portrait. But of all the works, which he painted in those probationary days, that which won the admiration of the good people of Truro most, was a parrot walking down his perch; all the living parrots that saw it, acknowledged the resemblance. So much was he charmed with the pursuit and his prospects, that when Wolcot asked him how he liked painting, "Better," he answered, "than bread and meat."

In the twentieth year of his age he went to London, and under the patronage of Wolcot, at first excited great attention. Of his success, Northcote gives the following account. "The novelty and originality of manner in his pictures, added to his great abilities, drew an universal attention from the connoisseurs, and he was immediately surrounded and employed by all the principal nobility of England. When he ceased, and that was soon, to be a novelty, the capricious public left him in disgust. They now looked out for his defects alone—and he became, in his turn, totally neglected and forgotten; and, instead of

being the sole object of public attention, and having the street where he lived so crowded with coaches of the nobility as to become a real nuisance to the neighborhood, 'so,' as he jestingly observed to me, 'that he thought he must place cannon at the door to keep the multitude off from it,' he now found himself as entirely deserted as if his house had been infected with the plague. Such is the world!" His popularity, however, continued rather longer than this description would seem to imply. When the wonder of the town began to abate, the country came gaping in; and ere he had wearied both, he had augmented the original thirty guineas with which he commenced the adventure, to a very comfortable sum; had furnished a house in Orange Court, Leicester Fields. The first use which he made of his success, was to spread comfort around his mother; and then he proceeded with his works and studies like one resolved to deserve the distinction which he had obtained. His own strong natural sense, and powers of observation, enabled him to lift the vail which the ignorant admiration of the multitude had thrown over his defects; he saw where he was weak—and labored most diligently to improve himself. His progress was great—and visible to all, save the leaders of taste and fashion. When his works were crude and unstudied, their applause was deafening: when they were such as really merited a place in public galleries, the world, resolved not to be infatuated twice with the same object, paid them a cold, or at least, a very moderate attention. "Reynolds," it has been remarked, "is the only eminent painter who has been able to charm back the public to himself after they were tired of him." The somewhat rough and unaccommodating manners of Opie were in his way; it requires delicate feet to tread the path of portraiture; and we must remember that he was a peasant, unacquainted with the elegance of learning, and

unpolished by intercourse with the courtesies and amenities of polite life. He was thrown into the drawing-room, rough and rude as he came from the hills of Cornwall, and had to acquit himself as well as he could.

He divided his time between his profession and the cultivation of his mind. He was conscious of his defective education; and, like Reynolds, desired to repair it, by mingling in the company of men of learning and talent, and by the careful perusal of the noblest writers. "Such were the powers of his memory, that he remembered all he had read. Milton, Shakespeare, Dryden, Pope, Gray, Cowper, Butler, Burke, and Dr. Johnson, he might, to use a familiar expression, be said to know by heart." A man of powerful understanding and ready apprehension, "who remembered all he read," and who had nine of the greatest and most voluminous of our authors by heart, could never be at any loss in company, if he had tolerable skill in using his stores. To his intellectual vigor we have strong testimony. "Mr. Opie," said Horne Tooke, "crowds more wisdom into a few words than almost any man I ever knew—he speaks as it were in axioms, and what he observes is worthy to be remembered." "Had Mr. Opie turned his powers of mind," says Sir James Mackintosh, "to the study of philosophy, he would have been one of the first philosophers of the age. I was never more struck than with his original manner of thinking and expressing himself in conversation; and had he written on the subject, he would, perhaps, have thrown more light on the philosophy of his art than any man living."

The chief excellence of Opie lies in portrait painting. He has great vigor, breadth, and natural force of character. His portrait of Charles Fox has been justly commended, nor does the circumstance of his having completed the likeness from the bust by Nollekens, as related by Smith, diminish his merit.

When Fox, who sat opposite to Opie at the Academy dinner given in the exhibition-room, heard the general applause which his portrait obtained, he remembered that he had given him less of his time than the painter had requested, and said across the table, "There, Mr. Opie, you see I was right; every body thinks it could not be better. Now, if I had minded you, and consented to sit again, you most probably would have spoiled the picture."

"He painted what he saw," says West, "in the most masterly manner, and he varied little from it. He saw nature in one point more distinctly and forcibly than any painter who ever lived. The truth of color as conveyed to the eye through the atmosphere, by which the distance of every object is ascertained, was never better expressed than by him. He distinctly represented local color in all its various tones and proportions, whether in light or in shadow, with a perfect uniformity of imitation. Other painters frequently made two separate colors of objects in light and in shade,—Opie never. With him no color—whether white, black, primary, or compound—ever, in any situation, lost its respective hue."

His works were not the offspring of random fits of labor, after long indulgence in idleness, they were the fruit of daily toil, in which every hour had its allotted task. "He was always in his painting room," says his wife, Amelia Opie, "by half past eight in winter, and by eight o'clock in summer; and there he generally remained, closely engaged in painting, till half past four in winter, and till five in summer. Nor did he allow himself to be idle when he had no pictures bespoken, and as he never let his execution rust for want of practice, he, in that case, either sketched out designs for historical or fancy pictures, or endeavored, by working on an unfinished picture of me, to improve himself by incessant practice in that difficult branch of art, female portraiture. Neither

did he suffer his exertions to be paralyzed by neglect the most unexpected, and disappointment the most undeserved."

"During the nine years that I was his wife," says Mrs. Opie, "I never saw him satisfied with any one of his productions; and often, very often, have I seen him enter my sitting room, and, in an agony of despondence throw himself on the sofa, and exclaim, 'I am the most stupid of created beings, and I never, never shall be a painter as long as I live.' He used to study at Somerset House, where the pictures were hung up, with more persevering attention and thirst for improvement than was ever exhibited perhaps by the lowest student in the schools, and on his return, I never heard him expatiate on his own excellencies, but sorrowfully dwell on his own defects."

When Henry Fuseli was made keeper of the Royal Academy, Opie was elected to the professorship of painting. He gave four lectures, which contain many discriminating remarks, and valuable thoughts, though they are deficient in deep discernment, and an original grasp of mind. The following passage embodies important hints, not only for young artists, but for every young man, who is aspiring to usefulness in any situation of life.

"Impressed as I am at the present moment, with a full conviction of the difficulties attendant on the practice of painting, I cannot but feel it also my duty to caution every one who hears me, against entering into it from improper motives, and with inadequate views of the subject; as they will thereby only run a risk of entailing misery and disgrace on themselves and their connections during the rest of their lives. Should any student therefore happen to be present, who has taken up the art on the supposition of finding it an easy and amusing employment—any one who has been sent into the academy by his friends, in the idea that he may cheaply acquire an honorable and

profitable profession—any one who has mistaken a petty kind of imitative monkey talent for genius—any one who hopes by it to get rid of what he thinks a more vulgar or disagreeable situation, to escape confinement at the counter or desk—any one urged merely by vanity or interest, or, in short, impelled by any consideration but a real and unconquerable passion for excellence; let him drop it at once, and avoid these walls and every thing connected with them, as he would the pestilence; for if he have not this unquestionable liking, in addition to all the requisites above enumerated, he may pine in indigence, or pass through life as a hackney likeness-taker, a copier, a drawing-master, or pattern drawer to young ladies, or he may turn picture cleaner, and help time to destroy excellencies which he cannot rival, but he must never hope to be in the proper sense of the word, a painter.

"He, who wishes to be a painter, must overlook no kind of knowledge. He must range deserts and mountains for images, picture upon his mind every tree of the forest and flower of the valley, observe the crags of the rock and the pinnacles of the palace, follow the windings of the rivulet, and watch the changes of the clouds; in short, all nature, savage or civilized, animate or inanimate, the plants of the garden, the animals of the wood, the minerals of the mountains, and the motions of the sky, must undergo his examination. Whatever is great, whatever is beautiful, whatever is interesting, and whatever is dreadful, must be familiar to his imagination, and concur to store his mind with an inexhaustible variety of ideas ready for association on every possible occasion, to embellish sentiment and to give effect to truth. It is moreover absolutely necessary that then the epitome of all—his principal subject and his judge—should become a particular object of his investigation; he must be acquainted with all th characteristic and beautiful, both in regard

to his mental and bodily endowments; must study their analogies and learn how far moral and physical excellence are connected and dependent one on the other. He must farther observe the power of the passions in all their combinations, and trace their changes as modified by constitution, or by the accidental influences of climate or custom, from the sprightliness of infancy to the despondency of decrepitude; he must be familiar with all the modes of life, and above all, endeavor to discriminate the essential from the accidental, to divest himself of the prejudices of his own age and country, and, disregarding temporary fashions and local taste, learn to see nature and beauty in the abstract, and rise to general and transcendental truth, which will always be the same."

These are noble sentences, and worthy of the regard of those who *paint the mind*, who are employed in intellectual portraiture, and whose work is to survive all material fabrics.

Opie died on Thursday, the 9th of April, 1807. During his sickness he imagined himself to be occupied in his favorite pursuit, and continued painting in idea till death interposed. He was interred in St. Paul's Cathedral, near Sir Joshua Reynolds. "In person," says Allan Cunningham, from whom we have compiled the preceding biography, "Opie looked like an inspired peasant. Even in his more courtly days there was a country air about him, and he was abrupt in his language and careless in his dress, without being conscious of either. His looks savored of melancholy; some have said of moroseness. The portrait which he has left of himself, shows a noble forehead and an intellectual eye. There are few who cannot feel his talents, and all must admire his fortitude. He came coarse and uneducated from the country into the polished circles of London; was caressed, invited, praised, and patronized for one little year or so, and then

the giddy e receded; but he was not left a wreck. H.. .... ength of mind which triumphs over despair. He estimated the patronage of fickle ignorance at what it was worth, and lived to invest his name with a brighter as well as a steadier halo, than that of fashionable wonders.

NATHANIEL SMITH.

NATHANIEL SMITH was born at Woodbury, in the State of Connecticut, on the 6th of January, 1762. He was destitute of the means of an early education, and while yet a youth was actively and successfully engaged in pursuits, in which he discovered such discretion and strength of intellect, as promised future eminence. An incident of no great importance in itself, induced him to enter upon the study of the profession of law. Having engaged in this pursuit, he persevered in it with surprising constancy of purpose, unappalled by difficulties, which ordinary minds would have deemed entirely insurmountable. He studied under the direction of the celebrated Judge, Tapping Reeve, of Litchfield, founder of the law school in that place, and the sound and enlightened guide of many young men, who have become eminent in their profession. Probably no individual who has lived in this country, has done so much as Judge Reeve, in implanting in the breasts of lawyers, the great principles of morality and religion.

Mr. Smith entered the office of Judge Reeve about the close of the war of the revolution, and such was his progress as to afford proof of the soundness of his judgment in the choice of his profession. In 1787, he was admitted to the bar, and his first efforts showed a mind of a superior order. Though surrounded by powerful com-

petitors, he soon rose to distinction, and was pronounced an able advocate.

In 1795, Yale College bestowed on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and in the same year, he was chosen representative in the Congress of the United States, where he continued four years. On his declining a third election to Congress, he was chosen a member of the Upper House, (or Senate,) of his native State, in which office he was continued, by annual election, for several years. In these various stations, he acquired great respect for his manly eloquence, for his firmness, his political integrity, and his comprehensive views. In October, 1806, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. This place he accepted at a great pecuniary sacrifice, as thereby he relinquished his lucrative and extensive professional employments. He remained in this important office until May, 1819. Not having had the advantages of early instruction and discipline, his style and manner of speaking showed nothing of the polished refinement of the scholar, but it manifested that which is of far greater value, a mind thoroughly disciplined, acquainted with the subjects on which it was occupied, and intensely engaged in convincing the understandings of his hearers. In his arguments at the bar, in his speeches before deliberative assemblies, and in his opinions on the bench, he discussed nothing but the merits of the question, and here he always appeared, as in truth he was, an able man. His language was not classical, but appropriate—his eloquence was not ornamented but powerful—it fixed attention, and produced conviction. He never sought to display qualities which he did not possess. He reasoned according to the strict rules of logic, without ever having studied them—he spoke well without any theoretical knowledge of the arts of the rhetorician. To a mind naturally strong and thoroughly disciplined, he added so much knowledge of

the technicalities and forms of the law, as enabled him to discern the nature of the questions submitted to him, and with the aid of his own resources, to decide correctly in cases of doubt and difficulty. To obstacles, which could be overcome, he never yielded. The powers of his mind rose with every difficulty, which he had to encounter, and he appeared to be the strongest when sustaining the heaviest weight.

Judge Smith was never a skeptic in religion. He always entertained great regard for Christianity. He had, notwithstanding, doubts respecting the reality of that change which is produced in the hearts of men, by the influence of the Spirit of God. At length, at the age of forty-six years, in the full possession of his understanding, and at a time when his imagination would not lead him astray, and in the hour of calm and deliberate reflection, he believed that such a change was produced in his own bosom. Under its influence he afterwards lived. His religious impressions were kept, for a time, entirely concealed, even from his most intimate friends. This proceeded, as it is supposed, from an excessive delicacy, as well as from a mistaken sense of duty. Placed as he was in an high and responsible office, and fearing that in his situation, an avowal of his faith in Christ, might be attributed to improper motives, he retained his feelings within his own breast. When his situation in relation to the public became such as to prevent any misconstruction of his motives, he hesitated no longer to profess his belief in religious truth, and his high hopes growing out of it. His trust in the merits and grace of the Redeemer of men, cheered and supported him during the remainder of his days.

He died in calm and blessed expectation of eternal life, at Woodbury, on the 9th of March, 1822, in the sixty-first year of his age.

JOHN GODFREY VON HERDER.

This distinguished author was born on the 25th of August, 1744, at Mohrangen, a small town in Eastern Prussia, where his father taught a school for girls. His early education was not favorable to the developement of his faculties. His father confined his reading to a very few books, but his love of learning was so strong, as to lead him to prosecute his studies in secret. The clergyman of the place employed the boy as a copyist, and soon discovered his talents, and allowed him to participate in the lessons in Latin and Greek, which he gave his own children. At this time, young Herder suffered from a serious disease of the eyes, which was the occasion of his becoming better known to a Russian surgeon, who lived in the clergyman's house, and who was struck with the engaging manners, and pleasing appearance of the youth. He offered to take Herder with him to Königsberg and to Petersburg, and to teach him surgery gratuitously. Herder, who had no hopes of being able to follow his inclinations, left his native city, in 1762; but, in Königsberg, he fainted at the first dissection at which he was present. He now resolved to study theology. Some gentlemen to whom he became known, and who immediately interested themselves in his favor, procured him an appointment in Frederic's College, where he was,

at first tutor to some scholars, and, at a later period, instructer in the first philosophical, and in the second Latin class, which left him time to study. During this period he became known to the celebrated Kant, who permitted him to hear all his lectures gratuitously. He formed a more intimate acquaintance with Hamann. His unrelaxing diligence penetrated the most various branches of science, theology, philosophy, philology, natural and civil history, and politics. In 1764, he was appointed an assistant teacher at the cathedral school of Riga, with which office, that of a preacher was connected. His pupils in school, as well as his hearers at church, were enthusiastically attached to him, so much that it was thought necessary to give him a more spacious church. His sermons were distinguished by simplicity, united with a sincere devotion to evangelical truth and original investigation. While on a visit to Strasburg, in 1767, he was invited to become court-preacher, superintendent and consistorial counsellor, at Bückeburg, whither he proceeded in 1771. He soon made himself known as a distinguished theologian, and, in 1775, was offered a professorship at Göttingen, which he, however, did not accept immediately, because the king had not confirmed his appointment unconditionally; and, contrary to custom, he was expected to undergo a kind of examination. But, being married, Herder did not feel at liberty to decline the appointment. On the very day when he had resolved to go to Göttingen, he received an invitation to become court preacher, general superintendent and consistorial counsellor at Weimar. This appointment was through the influence of Göthe. He arrived at Weimar in October, 1776. It was at the time when the duke Augustus and the princess Amelia had collected many of the most distinguished German literati at their court. Weimar was greatly benefited by Herder's labors as a pulpit orator,

inspector of the schools of the country, the patron of merit and founder of many excellent institutions. In 1801, he was made president of the high consistory, a place never before given to a person not of the nobility. Herder was subsequently made a nobleman by the elector of Bavaria. He says himself that he accepted the rank for the sake of his children. Herder died, on the 18th of December, 1803. Germany is deeply indebted to him for his valuable works in almost every branch of literature, and few authors have had a greater influence upon the public taste in that country. His works were published in forty-five octavo volumes, in 1806. Another edition is now publishing in sixty small volumes. As a theologian, Herder contributed to a better understanding of the historical and antiquarian parts of the Old Testament. "In early years," says Herder, "when the fields of knowledge lay before me, with all the glow of a morning sun, from which the meridian sun of life takes away so much of the charm, the idea often recurred to my mind, whether, like other great subjects of thought, each of which has its philosophy and science, that subject also, which lies nearest to our hearts, —the history of mankind, viewed as a whole—might not also have its philosophy and science. Every thing reminded me of this idea—metaphysics and morals, natural philosophy and natural history, lastly, and most powerfully, religion." This is the key to Herder's life. The object of his investigations was to find the point from which he might calmly survey every thing, and see how all things converge. "It is," says Frederic Schlegel, "the very perception and feeling of the poetical, in the character of natural legends, which forms the most distinguishing feature in the genius of Herder. He has an energy of fancy by which he is enabled to transport himself into the spirit and poetry of every age and people. The poetry of the Hebrews was that which most delighted him. He

may be called the mythologist of German literature, on account of this gift, this universal feeling of the spirit of antiquity. His power of entering into all the shapes and manifestations of fancy, implies in himself a very high degree of imagination. His mind seems to have been cast in so universal a mould, that he might have attained to equal eminence, either as a poet or philosopher."

Notwithstanding his genius, Herder had great difficulties to surmount—want of early education and encouragement —poverty—and a serious and lasting disease of the eyes. He was a most laborious and indefatigable student. He did not attempt to arrive at truth by metaphysical speculation, but by observation, by the constant study of nature and the mind, in all its works, in the arts, law, language, religion, medicine, poetry, &c.

In 1819, the grand duke of Weimar ordered a tablet of cast iron to be placed on his grave, with the inscription, *Licht, Liebe, Leben.* Light, Love, Life.

GIOVANNI BATTISTA BELZONI.

This enterprising traveller was born at Padua, Italy, in 1778, where his father was a barber. The family, however, had belonged originally to Rome; and it is related that Belzoni, when only thirteen years of age, betrayed his disposition for travelling, by setting out one day along with his younger brother to make his way to that city, which he had long been haunted with a passionate desire to see, from hearing his parents so often speak of it. The failing strength and courage of his brother, however, forced him to relinquish this expedition, after they had proceeded as far as the Appenines; and he returned to assist his father once more in his shop, as he had already, for some time, been doing. But when he was three years older, nothing could detain him any longer in his native place; and he again took the road to Rome, which he now actually reached. It is said that on his first arrival in this capital, he applied himself to the acquirement of a knowledge of the art of constructing machines for the conveyance and raising of water, with the view probably of obtaining a livelihood by the exhibition of curious or amusing experiments in that department of physics. It is certain, however, that he eventually adopted the profession of a monk. The arrival of Bonaparte in Italy, in 1800, brought him the opportunity, which he

embraced, of throwing off his monastic habit, being, by this time, heartily tired of the idleness and obscurity to which it consigned him. He then pursued, for some time, a wandering life, having, in the first instance, returned to his native town, and then proceeded in quest of employment to Holland, from whence, in about a year afterwards, he came back to Italy. By this time he had attained so uncommon a height, with strength proportioned to it, that he was an object of wonder wherever he was seen. It was probably with the expectation of being able to turn these personal advantages to account, that he determined, in 1803, to go over to England. On arriving there, accordingly, he first attempted to gain a maintenance by walking over the country exhibiting hydraulic experiments, and feats of muscular strength; and accompanied by his wife, an Englishwoman whom he had married soon after his arrival, he visited with this object all the principal towns both of Great Britain and Ireland. He continued for about nine years in England. In 1812, he sailed with his wife for Lisbon. After spending some time in that city, he proceeded to Madrid, where he attracted considerable attention by his performances. From Spain he went to Malta; and here, it is supposed, the idea first suggested itself to him of passing over to Egypt, as others of his countrymen had already done, and offering his services to the Pacha, the active and enterprising Mohammed Ali. Accordingly, carrying with him a recommendation from a Maltese agent of the Pacha's, he proceeded, still accompanied by his wife, to Cairo. On presenting himself to Ali, he was immediately engaged, on the strength of his professed skill in hydraulics, to construct a machine for watering some pleasure gardens at Soubra, on the Nile. This undertaking, it is said, he accomplished to the Pacha's satisfaction; but an accident having occurred to one of the persons looking on, at the first trial of the machine, the Turkish superstition, under

the notion that what had happened was a bad omen, would not suffer the use of it to be continued. Belzoni was once more thrown on his own resources, probably as much at a loss as ever, what course to adopt.

At this time, the late Mr. Salt, the learned orientalist, was English Consul in Egypt, and embracing the opportunity which his situation afforded him, was actively employed in investigating and making collections of the remains of antiquity with which that country abounded. For this purpose he kept several agents in his employment, whose business it was to make researches, in all directions, after interesting objects of this description. To Mr. Salt, Belzoni now offered his services in this capacity, and he was immediately employed, by that gentleman, in an affair of considerable difficulty—the removing and transporting to Alexandria of the colossal granite bust of Memnon, which lay buried in the sands near Thebes. The manner in which Belzoni accomplished this, his first enterprise in his new line of pursuit, at once established his character for energy and intelligence. Dressing himself as a Turk, he proceeded to the spot, and there half persuaded and half terrified the peasantry into giving him the requisite assistance in excavating and embarking the statue, till he had at last the satisfaction of seeing it safely deposited in the boat intended for its conveyance down the Nile. It reached England, and was placed in the British Museum.

Belzoni had now found his proper sphere, and henceforward his whole soul was engaged in the work of exploring the wonderful country in which he was, in search of the monuments of its ancient arts and greatness. In this occupation he was constantly employed, sometimes in the service of Mr. Salt, and sometimes on his own account. The energy and perseverance of character which he exhibited, were truly astonishing. In despite of innumerable

obstacles, partly of a physical nature, and partly arising from the opposition of the natives, he at last succeeded in penetrating into the interior of the temple of Ihamboul, in Upper Egypt, which was so enveloped in sand, that only its summit was visible. On returning from this expedition, he next undertook a journey to the Valley of Bebanel Malonk, beyond Thebes, where, from a slight inspection on a former occasion of the rocky sides of the hills, he had been led to suspect that many tombs of the old inhabitants would be found concealed in them. For some time he searched in vain in all directions for any indication of what he had expected to find, till at last his attention was turned to a small fissure in the rock, which presented to his experienced eye something like the traces of human labor. He put forward his hand to examine it, when the stones, on his touching them, tumbled down, and discovered to him the entrance to a long passage, having its sides ornamented with sculpture and paintings. He at once entered the cavern, proceeded forward, and, after overleaping several obstacles, found himself in a sepulchral chamber, in the centre of which stood an alabaster sarcophagus, covered with sculptures. He afterwards examined this sarcophagus, and with immense labor, took exact copies of the drawings, consisting of nearly a thousand figures, and the hieroglyphic inscriptions, amounting to more than five hundred, which he found on the walls of the tomb. It was from these copies that Belzoni formed the representation or model of this tomb, which he afterwards exhibited in London and Paris.

On returning to Cairo from this great discovery, he immediately engaged in a new investigation, which conducted him to another perhaps still more interesting.

He determined to make an attempt to penetrate into one of the pyramids. At length in the pyramid called Cephrenes, he discovered the entrance to a passage, which

led him into the centre of the structure. Here he found a sepulchral chamber, with a sarcophagus in the middle of it, containing the bones of a bull—a discovery, which has been considered as proving that these immense edifices were in reality erected by the superstition of the old Egyptians, for no other purpose than to serve each as a sepulchre for one of their brute divinities.

Encouraged by the splendid success which attended his efforts, and which had made his name famous in all parts of the literary world, Belzoni engaged in various other enterprises of a similar character. He also made several journeys in the remote parts of Egypt, and into the adjoining regions of Africa. He set sail for Europe in September, 1819. The first place which he visited was his native city, from which he had been absent nearly twenty years. He presented to the Paduans two lion-headed granite statues, which were placed in a conspicuous situation in the palace of Justice. A medal was at the same time struck in honor of the giver, on which were inscribed his name and a recital of his exploits. From Italy Belzoni hastened to England, where the rumor of his discoveries had already excited a greater interest than in any other country. In 1820, an account of his travels and discoveries appeared in a quarto volume, with another volume of plates, in folio. It soon passed through three editions, while translations of it into French and Italian appeared at Paris and Milan. After this, Belzoni visited successively, France, Russia, Sweden, and Denmark. Returning to England he undertook, under the auspices of government, the perilous attempt of penetrating into central Africa. Proceeding to Tangiers he went from thence to Fez. Unexpected difficulties prevented his advancing in that direction. On this disappointment, he sailed for Madeira, and from thence, in October, 1823, he set out for the mouth of the river Benin, on the western coast of

Africa, with the intention of making his way to the interior from that point. A malady, however, attacked him almost as soon as he stepped his foot on shore. He expired at Gato, on the 3d of December, 1823. His remains were interred on the shore, under a plane tree. An inscription in English was afterwards placed over his grave.

JONAS KING.

While the tribute of admiration is readily awarded to such men as Park, and Ledyard, and Belzoni, who have manifested an unconquerable perseverance, and a noble enthusiasm, and enlargement of views, in extending the boundaries of science, and geographical discovery, there is still another class of men worthy of more exalted honor. We should be among the last to disparage the efforts of such men as we have named. We consider them as benefactors of mankind. We rejoice that they could break away from the call of avarice, from the syren voice of pleasure, and from the powerful attractions of home and native land, and spend their days in travelling through savage deserts, encountering the fierce suns of the tropics, and still fiercer men. We should rejoice to visit the grave of Belzoni, and remove the rubbish which time, or the hand of the Bedouin, may have gathered around his tomb. The names of Hornemann, and Salt, and Clapperton, and Parry, are not to be named lightly. They accomplished very much for the cause of science, and indirectly for the moral and spiritual emancipation of our race. Most of them were cut down early, but they did not fall into an untimely, much less into a dishonorable grave. Their names will be mentioned with respect in every future age of the world.

Notwithstanding, we are called to contemplate a higher species of excellence, a more noble disinterestedness, a more enduring renown. Men have gone into all the world to do good; not to explore pyramids, nor to measure obelisks, nor to watch the changes of heavenly bodies, but to sympathize in human calamity, to give to benighted men the lamp of eternal life, to extend the reign of civilization and of the Christian faith; not to send back polished vases, and granite statues, and classic fragments, but the report of nations saved, the joy of redeemed men, and the assured promise of still more glorious achievements. These men have not despised science, and have not been unmindful of classic recollections. Still they went for a higher purpose. They devoted themselves to a more self-denying work. A nobler enthusiasm filled their souls, a richer treasure freighted their ships. They carried with them the hopes of heaven. They travelled for eternity. Many of them fell in the first onset, but their ashes rest in hope, and angels guard their repose.

Among the most honored names in this class of the benefactors of man, is that of JONAS KING. In delineating a few of the incidents in his eventful life, we are sure that the consideration that we may be advancing that cause to which he has devoted his days, will apologise for what in other circumstances might seem inconsiderate, or inexpedient. His name is public property. It is a part of his means of doing good.

Jonas King was born in 1793, at Hawley, a town in the western part of the county of Franklin, in the State of Massachusetts. His parents are worthy and estimable people, but were entirely unable to assist their son to obtain the advantages of education. It seems from the fact which we are about to relate, that he was not in circumstances, in his native town, to acquire that common school learning which is the rich legacy of nearly all the children

of New England. In December, 1807, William H. Maynard, Esq. was engaged in instructing a school in Plainfield, a town adjacent to Hawley. One cold morning, on entering his school-room, Mr. Maynard observed a boy that he had not seen before, sitting on one of the benches. The lad soon made known his errand to his instructer. He was fifteen years old; his parents lived seven miles distant; he wanted an education, and had come from home on foot, that morning, to see if Mr. Maynard could help him contrive how to obtain it. Mr. Maynard asked him if he had any acquaintances in the place, who would assist him in acquiring an education? No. Can your parents render any assistance? No. Have you any friends who will help you? No. Well, how do you expect to obtain an education? I don't know, but I thought I would come and see you. Mr. Maynard told him to remain that day, and he would see what could be done. He discovered that young King was possessed of good sense, but of no uncommon brilliancy. He was particularly struck with the cool and resolute manner in which he undertook to conquer difficulties, which would have intimidated common minds. In the course of the day, Mr. Maynard made provision for having him boarded, through the winter, in the family with himself, the lad paying for his services by manual labor. He gave himself diligently to study, in which he made commendable, but not rapid proficiency, embracing every opportunity of reading and conversation for obtaining knowledge; and thus he spent the winter.

The necessary preparation for college was acquired, we believe, under the tuition of the Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, of Plainfield. To this gentleman's faithful care and thorough instruction, a large portion of the young men who acquired a liberal education for thirty years past, in the western counties of Massachusetts and in the adjoining portions of New York and Vermont, are greatly indebted.

A majority of a number of the classes, who have been educated at Williams College, pursued their classical, preparatory studies at Plainfield, and departed, in a body, to their collegiate residence, with the truly patriarchal benedictions of their venerated instructer.

After spending the usual time, of four years, at Williams College, Mr. King graduated, in 1816. The class with which he was connected, was highly respectable, both in numbers and talents. To Mr. King, at commencement, was assigned one of the principal appointments—the philosophical oration. For means of pecuniary support, he was almost wholly dependant on his own vigorous efforts, in teaching school, and in other ways. By the recommendation of the Rev. President Moore, which was very full in regard to all points, Mr. King was admitted to the patronage of the American Education Society, being the sixth on a list which now numbers more than fourteen hundred. The amount of assistance, however, which he received, was very limited, as the resources of the society were, at that time, small, and his collegiate course terminated soon after he received the first appropriation. On leaving Williams College, he repaired to the Theological Seminary, at Andover, to avail himself of the invaluable opportunities which are there enjoyed, in the study of the oriental languages. He left the seminary, after completing the full course, in 1819. Of his classmates, six are missionaries, and two are presidents of colleges. At the foundation of the new college in Amherst, in 1821, Mr. King was immediately named as professor of the Oriental Languages and Literature. A part of the intervening time between the close of his residence at Andover, and this appointment, was passed in missionary labors in the south-

ates. Feeling his need of more ample preparation

ge the duties of his professorship, he concluded

and avail himself of the eminent advan-

tages which the French capital holds out for oriental studies. His expenses were defrayed by the hands of generous private friendship. After residing some time in Paris, news was received of the death of the Rev. Levi Parsons, a distinguished missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, in Palestine. His only associate, the Rev. Pliny Fisk, in consequence of the bereavement, greatly needed a fellow-laborer, who, with a knowledge of Arabic and other languages, could accompany him in his contemplated journies, preparatory to the establishment of the mission with which he was connected. Having received an intimation that Mr. King might be induced to offer his services for a limited period, he wrote to him immediately, earnestly requesting that some arrangement might be made to that effect. Mr. King immediately endeavored to ascertain the path of duty; and with the advice of his intimate and valuable friend, S. V. S. Wilder, Esq., an American merchant, then residing in Paris, concluded to offer his services for three years. Mr. Wilder generously offered $100 a year for the time specified; and two other gentlemen made liberal donations towards defraying the necessary expenses. In referring to the dangers, to which he might be exposed, by travelling in unhealthy climates, and by other causes, Mr. King observes, "Here, (at Paris,) I see around me, with crippled limbs and scarred bodies, men, who risked their lives at Jena, and Marengo, at Austerlitz, and Waterloo, to gain a little perishable glory, and shall not I risk as much in the cause of the Prince of Peace, who gives to all his faithful followers the high prize of immortal glory, and joys inconceivable?"

On Monday, September 30, 1822, Mr. King left Paris for Marseilles. He passed through Fontainbleau, Fontenay, Lyons, Nismes, &c. We copy a few extracts from his very interesting journals. "On the first of October, awoke

in the morning, just as the twilight appeared. I had rode all night. When I had fallen asleep, it was rainy, dark, and cheerless. But the rain was now past, and the clouds were all dispersed, except a light, fleecy girdle, hanging round the horizon, above which, in the east, the morning star seemed to twinkle with uncommon beauty; and in the west, the moon, just past the full, was looking mildly down upon the Loire, whose waters faintly reflected her light, as they glided silently along, at the foot of the elevation on which I stood. As daylight increased, cultivated hills, beautiful vineyards, and fertile plains, rose to my view, and presented one of the most lovely scenes, I had ever witnessed."

At Lyons Mr. King remarks, "My emotions were indescribable. I stood on a spot where the Romans had once resided; where their emperors had lived, and erected magnificent temples to their idols; where Hannibal and Cæsar, with their couquering armies, had passed along; where hordes of Saracens had spread their desolations; and where Pothinus, and Irenæus, with nineteen thousand followers, took their flight to glory, amid the flames of persecution. I followed them, in my imagination, through their last conflict, till I saw them bowing before the throne of God, and joining in ascriptions of praise to the Lamb that was slain."

On the 28th of October, while sailing out of the harbor of Marseilles, Mr. King exclaims, "I could not but feel some emotions on leaving a country, where I had spent one of the most interesting years of my life.

"Land of science and of sin, of gaiety and pleasure! I bid thee farewell. The sun shines brightly on thy beautiful fields; the mild gales breathe softly on thy enchanting hills; and along the borders of thy streams, in the midst of vines and olives lie scattered the cottages of peasants, and the mansions of nobles. Thou hast, within

thy bosom, all that can gratify genius, and taste, and sense. O when shall the spirit of Massillon rest upon thy priests! When shall the light of millennial glory dawn upon thy population! With fervent prayers for thy prosperity, I bid thee farewell."

On the 2d of November, Mr. King reached Malta, and was warmly welcomed by the missionaries, Messrs. Fisk and Temple. On the 10th of January, 1823, Mr. King, in company with Messrs. Fisk and Wolff, reached Alexandria in Egypt. In this city they were actively employed about ten days, when they departed for Rosetta and Cairo. In the course of their travels through this land of "signs and wonders," they took occasion to visit many specimens of ancient art and science. In describing the antiquities of Gornon, near the "hundred gated" Thebes, the travellers remark: "The principal room in the tomb visited by Belzoni, was fifty feet by thirty. Here, when the tomb was opened, was a sarcophagus of alabaster, which has been removed to London, and is now in the museum. Adjoining this is a room thirty feet square, on three sides of which is a projection which forms a kind of table. All the walls of the rooms and of the passages are covered with hieroglyphics of the finest kind. In one place are portrayed priests, dressed in white, handling serpents; in another, persons offering sacrifices; in a third, a company of prisoners; in a fourth, dead bodies, &c. All these apartments are cut out of the solid rock. How much labor to prepare a tomb for one man."

After visiting many other interesting spots, the travellers returned to Cairo. The time, which they spent in Egypt, was about three months. In connection with Mr. Wolff, they preached the gospel in English, French, German, Italian, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic; distributed about nine hundred copies of the Bible or parts of it, in twelve languages; and nearly three thousand tracts.

On the 7th of April, 1823, Mr. King, after suffering severely from the scorching winds of the desert, and from the want of water, reached the "promised land." We extract a few paragraphs in regard to the journey.

"After some refreshment, we took a Persian Testament, and Genesis in Arabic, and went to Hadgi Mohammed, the Dervish. We sat down with him on his blanket spread on the sand, with the sun beating on our heads, and then showed him our books. He reads well in Persian and Arabic. Of the other Dervishes, not one knows how to read. While we were reading with him, most of the Dervishes, and several Turks and Armenians, gathered around and listened. Mohammed read in Genesis, and said that it was *very good.* Another Turk then took it and read that God *rested* on the seventh day, and remarked angrily, that it was infidelity to say that God *rested.* Mr. Wolff tried to explain, but to no purpose, till he said he had given such a book to the Mufti of Jerusalem, who said it was good. This argument silenced him at once. We gave the book of Genesis to Mohammed. While we were sitting with him, Elias, the Maronite, began to beat his mother, because she did not cook his victuals as he wished. Mr. Wolff went to him and reproved him severely for such conduct. The Turks said *tauntingly*, 'He is a Christian.' We were glad they heard Mr. Wolff's admonition, in which he showed them how inconsistent his behavior was with the spirit of the gospel. The unnatural man at length relented, and went to his mother and kissed her hand in token of acknowledgement. Towards evening, two Turks had a dispute, which finally led to blows. Hadgi Ibrahim interfered, and, by loud words, and a few blows, settled the quarrel. After this, the Dervish Mustapha became very angry with his ass, and, like Balaam, fell to beating him, and concluded by calling him a *Jew.*"

On the 14th of March, the travellers experienced a strong scorching wind from the south east. The air seemed as if it issued from the mouth of an oven. Many of the Arabs bound a handkerchief over their mouths and noses, as a defence against it. The thermometer in their tent was at 99°. The wind sometimes blew the sand over the hills like snow in a storm.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th of April, they "stood within the gates of Jerusalem." "The scenes and events of four thousand years," say they, "rushed upon our minds; events in which Heaven, and Earth, and Hell, had felt the deepest interest. This was the place selected by the Almighty for his dwelling, and here his glory was rendered visible. This was the perfection of beauty and the glory of all lands. Here David sat and tuned his harp, and sung the praises of Jehovah. Hither the tribes came up to worship. Here enraptured prophets saw bright visions of the world above, and received messages from on high for guilty man. Here our Lord and Saviour came in the form of a servant, and groaned, and wept, and poured out his soul unto death, for the redemption of man."

While resident in this country, Mr. King visited the principal towns, and objects of curiosity in Palestine, resided, some time, for the purpose of acquiring Arabic, at a monastery on Mount Lebanon, and performed various tours in the surrounding regions of Syria, and the ancient Phœnicia.

On the 26th of September, 1825, three years after leaving Paris, Mr. King finally departed from the Holy Land, proceeded to Tarsus, the birth-place of Paul, and from thence travelled by land to Smyrna, where he arrived on the 23d of December, eighty-nine days after leaving his brethren in Syria. At Smyrna he remained till the 15th of June, 1826, in the study of modern Greek, and then

passed by land to the sea of Marmora, and across that sea to Constantinople. "While in this city," Mr. King remarks, "I viewed the place from the tower of Pera. The prospect is enchanting. Hills and vallies covered with the habitations of 600,000 souls; the mighty domes and lofty minarets of mosques; the palace of the sultan, encircled with gardens, beautiful as Eden; the waters of the Bosphorus, and the sea of Marmora, dividing the continent of Europe and Asia, and whitened with sails; and lofty mountains, among which is Olympus, with everlasting snows upon his hoary head; all combine to present a view, perhaps unequalled for beauty and grandeur, in any part of the world."

While in Syria, Mr. King published a Farewell Letter, having special reference to the Armenian population. This letter being translated into Turkish, with considerable additions, by Mr. Goodell, found its way to Constantinople, and produced a very great excitement among the hundred thousand Armenians in that capital. A council of the clergy and laity was immediately held, and after much discussion it was resolved, that until twenty-five years be expired, no individual be allowed to become a monk, or priest, that no boys nor women be permitted to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and that if men go, they be not allowed to remain more than four days in Jerusalem, that all the former priests, deacons, and bishops, in the convent at Jerusalem, be required to leave immediately."

Mr. King returned by water to Smyrna, in July. In August he went on board the United States' ship Erie, bound to Mahon, in Minorca, and touched at Tripoli and Algiers in Africa, on his way to that port. From thence he proceeded to Spain, France, and England, making some stay in the two latter countries.

To provide for the wants of the Armenian population,

Mr. King secured donations in France and England, to the amount of about eight hundred dollars, with which he purchased f...s of Armenian and Arabic types. Among the contributors were some of the most distinguished benefactors and philanthropists of the age. A printing press, for the Armenian language, was forwarded to Malta about the same time.

Mr. King arrived in his native country on the 4th of September, 1827. During six or eight months subsequent, he was employed on agencies, in the northern and middle States, in behalf of the missionary cause. Having been invited by a number of friends, to proceed to Greece in one of the vessels, which was to carry out supplies to the afflicted inhabitants of that country, he resigned his professorship of the Oriental languages in Amherst college, and early in June, 1828, embarked at New York, for Greece. He arrived at Paros on the 26th of July, and was cordially welcomed by the Greek government. Since that time he has been very actively engaged, in connection with his lady, a native Greek, in establishing schools, in circulating tracts, and diffusing, in various ways, the principles of knowledge and of Christianity. His labors are attended with very marked and encouraging success. He has again become connected with the American Board of Missions.

We close this brief memoir with a letter from Mr. King, as honorable to his feelings as it was gratifying to the gentlemen connected with the Society to whom it was addressed.

"*Tenos, (Greece,) 27th May*, 1830.

"In the year of 1816, as near as I recollect, just as I was about finishing my collegiate studies, I received from the American Education Society a donation of fifty dollars; and though it was not expected, as I suppose, by the

Society, that I should ever refund that sum, and though since the refunding system has been adopted, it is the custom of the Society, as I am informed, with regard to that system, to make an exception in favor of missionaries, still I am happy to return the above mentioned sum, with the interest, which, by this time nearly equals the principal; and I therefore send you *one hundred* dollars, which I wish you to accept as payment for the fifty dollars, which I received about fourteen years ago. It is not long, since I have had it in my power to remit this sum, which I hope may be the means of aiding some one more worthy than myself."

ISAAC MILNER.

This distinguished mathematician, and exemplary divine, was born in the neighborhood of Leeds, England, in the year 1751. His father was a man of strong understanding, who, having felt, in his own case, the want of a good education, formed an early resolution to remedy that defect in his children, as far as in him lay. Accordingly, Isaac, the youngest, was sent, at six years of age, with his brother Joseph, to the grammar school of his native town, where he made a very rapid progress in classical learning. Just as he was entering upon the study of the Greek language, however, in his tenth year, the death of his father, who had been unfortunate in business, and had suffered materially in his circumstances from the incidents of the rebellion of 1745, blighted all his prospects of a literary education; his mother being under the painful necessity of taking him from school, and placing him in a situation in Leeds, in which he would have an opportunity of learning several branches of the woolen manufacture. His father had been a master-weaver, and when he fell into difficulties, his sons, lads as they were, rose up early, and sat up late, to contribute, by the produce of their spinning-wheels, to the support of the family; which was placed in such straitened circumstances, that Joseph, requiring a Greek book, while at school, to enable him to pass into a higher

class, his father sent it home, one Saturday night, instead of a joint of meat, for their Sunday's dinner, not having the means of procuring both. When his death deprived his wife and children of the material advantage of his assistance, Joseph, during the intervals of school, and Isaac, before he went to his work as an apprentice, and after he came home from it, rising in winter, many hours before day-break, and working by candle-light, plied the shuttle incessantly, for the better support of their mother, left in an ill state of health, to get a scanty living by the labor of her hands. Isaac remained with his master for several years, until his brother Joseph, (who from the humble station of chapel clerk of Catharine Hall, Cambridge, in which capacity, supported by several admirers of his extraordinary learning in Leeds, he entered that university, soon after the death of his father, had become head-master of the grammar school, and afterwards lecturer of the principal church in Hull,) from an income of £200 a year, generously resolved to take upon himself the charge of his education for the church. Before, however, he had him removed to Hull, he commissioned a clergyman at Leeds to ascertain what were his attainments. The degree of knowledge, which he had acquired, the accuracy of his ideas, and the astonishing command of language, which he possessed, fully satisfied him of the competency of the lad for the situation in which it was intended to place him. A few days after, at the age of seventeen, he left Leeds and the occupation of a weaver, for his brother's dwelling, and the more congenial pursuits of a literary life. Though still but a boy, he was found to have been so well grounded in the classics by Moore, the usher of the grammar-school at Leeds, as to be able to render material assistance to his brother, in teaching the lower boys of his crowded classes. Whilst not thus engaged, he pursued his own studies, with his wonted diligence, and soon became a complete and

accomplished classic. In mathematics, also, his attainments must also at this time have been considerable, as his brother, whose pre-eminence, as a scholar, lay not in these pursuits, on the occurrence of any algebraical difficulty, was in the habit of sending to him for its solution. Having thus redoubled his diligence, to make up for the time he had lost,—well prepared by a most laborious and successful, if not a long course of study, aided by natural talents of unusual depth and splendor, to make a conspicuous figure at the university—he was entered a sizar, (an indigent student supported by benefactions called exhibitions,) at Queen's college, Cambridge, in the year 1770, where he greatly distinguished himself by his learning and application. He took his bachelor's degree in 1774, when he attained the high honor of being at once the senior wrangler of his year, and the first Smith's prize-man. So strongly, indeed, was his superiority over all his competitors marked, on this occasion, that contrary to the usual practice, it was deemed right, by the examiners, to interpose a blank space between them, and he was honored with the designation of *Incomparabilis*, a distinction which has never been conferred, but in one other instance. Nor was his learning confined to mathematics, for he was not less eminent in other walks of science and literature. In theology, we learn from Bishop Watson, that he was so deeply read, that when he kept his *act*, the divinity school was thronged with auditors; and their curiosity was amply gratified by listening to what the prelate terms a "real academical entertainment." The circumstance of these disputations being held in Latin, proves also that Milner must have made great progress in classical knowledge.

In the following year, Mr. Milner was elected a fellow of his college. In 1783 and in 1785, he acted as moderator in the schools; was nominated, in 1782, one of the proctors, and in 1783, a taxor of the university. In the

latter year, also, he was chosen to be the first Jacksonian professor of natural and experimental philosophy and chemistry, in which sciences he had previously given several courses of public lectures in the university, with great acceptance.

Whilst at college, he formed an intimacy with Mr. Wilberforce, whom he is said to have been instrumental in bringing to the decided adoption of those views of religion, which he has since so steadily maintained, and adorned by a consistent life. By his means, Mr. Milner was introduced to the acquaintance of Mr. Pitt; and in the year 1787, these three eminent men set out together on a tour to the continent, in which they had not proceeded far before Mr. Pitt was recalled home in consequence of some change in the ministry, which led to his elevation to the premiership. His companions accompanied him to England, where their friendship continued uninterrupted till the death of Mr. Pitt, and afterwards of Mr. Milner.

In the following year, 1788, Mr. Milner was elected president of the college, to which, as a student, he had been so bright an ornament, and about the same time, took his degree of doctor in divinity.

For some years previously, the college, which had been the asylum of Erasmus, was rapidly declining in its reputation for learning and discipline; but from the moment of his assuming the reins of its government, he labored indefatigably and successfully to restore its ancient character for both. He introduced into its fellowships men, eminent for their talents at other colleges. It specially became celebrated, during his presidency, for the number of pious young men, who studied there for the Christian ministry, and who are now some of the most popular and zealous clergymen of the establishment. Dr. Milner aided the cause of learning, in no slight degree, by giving a strong impulse to the study of mathematics, and the various

branches of experimental philosophy. In 1791, he was raised to the deanery of Carlisle.

In 1798, he was placed in the chair of the Lucasian professor of mathematics, a situation worth about £350 a year, which had been successively filled by Isaac Barrow, Sir Isaac Newton, Whiston, Saunderson, Colson, and Waring, the most eminent mathematicians of their day. He twice served the office of vice chancellor of the university. As an author, he is advantageously known by the life of his brother Joseph; by strictures on some of the publications of Dr. Herbert Marsh,—a most masterly defence of the Bible Society; by a continuation of the Church History begun by his brother; and by papers contributed to the Transactions of the Royal Society, of which he was a fellow.

He died at the house of his friend, Mr. Wilberforce, in London, on the first of April, 1821, in the seventieth year of his age. He left the world in humble hope of eternal life, through the mediation and merits of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"In intellectual endowment," says his biographer, (supposed to be Mr. Wilberforce,) "Isaac Milner was unquestionably one of the first men of his day. He possessed prodigious powers of understanding. As a mathematician, he was one of the first, if not the very first of his age. He had also a great partiality for mechanics; and, spending most of his leisure, during the life-time of his brother, at Hull, his lodgings there were a complete workshop, filled with all kinds of carpenter's and turner's tools. There he was accustomed daily to relax his mind from the fatigues of study by some manual labor; and so much was he interested in these pursuits, that his lathe, and appendages for turning, were not only extremely curious, but very expensive, having cost him no less a sum than one hundred and forty guineas. He had also a very ingenious

machine, partly of his own invention, which formed, and polished at the same time, watch wheels, of every description, with the utmost possible exactness."

Humility was a very striking feature in his character. Never, at any period of his life, was he ashamed of his former lowly station; and after he had become the head of a college, a dignified member of the clerical order, and had proved himself one of the first scholars in the country, whenever he passed through Leeds, as he generally did on his journeys to the North, he never failed to visit the obscure friends of his boyish days, and by his well-timed acts of generosity towards them, often did he "deliver the poor and fatherless, and cause the widow's heart to sing for joy." Isaac Milner, the poor fatherless weaver, and the very reverend Isaac Milner, president of Queen's college, Lucasian professor of mathematics, and dean of Carlisle, rich in this world's goods,* as well as in literary fame, never wore even the semblance of two different men. Through life, he manifested in his deportment, the unaffected simplicity of manners, and affability of disposition, appropriate to his early station in society, but not less adorning the high sphere, in which, by the providence of God, he afterwards was called to move.

* Notwithstanding his great liberality, he accumulated from the savings of his preferments a fortune of from fifty to sixty thousand pounds.

WILLIAM CAXTON.

"The ease, which we now find in providing and dispersing, what number of copies of books we please, by means of the press," says Dr. Middleton, in his Free Inquiry, "makes us apt to imagine, without considering the matter, that the publication of books was the same easy affair in all former times as in the present. But the case was quite different. For, when there were no books in the world, but what were written out by hand with great labor and expense, the method of publishing them was necessarily very slow, and the price very dear; so that the rich only and curious would be disposed or able to purchase them; and to such also, it was often difficult to procure them, or to know even where they were to be bought."

Of the truth of these remarks of Dr. Middleton, a great variety of facts might be brought forward in proof. In 1299, the bishop of Winchester borrowed a Bible in two volumes folio, from a convent in that city, giving a bond, drawn up in the most formal and solemn manner, for its due return. This Bible had been given to the convent by a former bishop, and in consideration of this gift, and one hundred marks, the monks founded a daily mass for the soul of the donor. In the same century, several Latin Bibles were given to the university of Oxford, on condition that the students, who read them, should deposit a

cautionary pledge. And even after manuscripts were multiplied, by the invention of linen paper, it was enacted by the statutes of St. Mary's college, at Oxford, in 1446, that, "no scholar shall occupy a book in the library above one hour, or two hours at most, lest others should be hindered from the use of the same." Money was often lent on the deposit of a book; and there were public chests in the universities, and other seminaries, in which the books so deposited were kept. They were often particularly named and described in wills—generally left to a relative or friend, in fee, and for the term of his life, and afterwards to the library of some religious house. "When a book was bought," observes Mr. Warton, "the affair was of so much importance, that it was customary to assemble persons of consequence and character, and to make a formal record that they were present on the occasion." The same author adds, "Even so late as the year 1471, when Louis XI. of France borrowed the works of the Arabian physician, Rhasis, from the faculty of medicine at Paris, he not only deposited, by way of a pledge, a valuable plate, but was obliged to procure a nobleman to join with him as party in a deed, by which he bound himself to return it under a considerable forfeiture." Long and violent altercations, and even lawsuits, sometimes took place, in consequence of the disputed property of a book.

Books were so scarce in Spain in the tenth century, that several monasteries had among them only one copy of the Bible, one of Jerome's Epistles, and one of several other religious books. There are some curious instances given by Lupus, abbot of Ferrieris, of the extreme scarcity of classical manuscripts in the middle of the ninth century. He was much devoted to literature; and, from his letters, appears to have been indefatigable in his endeavors to find out such manuscripts, in order to borrow and copy them. In a letter to the pope, he earn-

estly requests of him a copy of Quinctilian, and of a treatise of Cicero; for, he adds, though we have some fragments of them, a complete copy is not to be found in France. In two other of his letters, he requests of a brother abbot, the loan of several manuscripts, which he assures him shall be copied and returned as soon as possible by a faithful messenger. Another time he sent a special messenger to borrow a manuscript, promising that he would take very great care of it, and return it by a safe opportunity, and requesting the person who lent it to him, if he were asked to whom he had lent it, to reply, to some near relations of his own, who had been very urgent to borrow it. Another manuscript, which he seems to have prized much, and a loan of which had been so frequently requested, that he thought of *banishing* it somewhere, that it might not be destroyed or lost, he tells a friend he may perhaps lend him when he comes to see him, but that he will not trust it to the messenger who had been sent for it, though a monk, and trust-worthy, because he was travelling on foot.

Respecting the price of manuscript books, we are not in the possession of many facts. Plato paid a hundred minae, equal to £375, for three small treatises by Philolaus, the Pythagorean. After the death of Speusippus, Plato's disciple, his books, few in number, were purchased by Aristotle, for about £675. It is said that St. Jerome nearly ruined himself by the purchase of religious works alone. Persons of moderate fortune could not afford the means of procuring them, nor the rich even without the sacrifice of some luxuries. The mere money, which was paid for them in the dark ages, whenever a person distinguished himself for his love of literature, was seldom the sole or the principal expense. It was often necessary to send to a great distance, and to spend much time in finding out where they were. In the ninth century, an English bishop was obliged to make five journeys to Rome,

principally in order to purchase books; for one of his books thus procured, Alfred gave him an estate of eight hides of land, or as much land as eight ploughs could till. About the period of the invention of cotton paper, 1174, the homilies of St. Bede, and St. Augustine's Psalter, were bought by a prior in Winchester, from the monks of Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, for twelve measures of barley, and a pall, richly embroidered in silver. Stow informs us that in 1274, a Bible, in nine volumes, fairly written, with a gloss or comment, sold for fifty marks, or £33 6*s.* 8*d.* About this time, the price of wheat averaged 3*s.* 4*d.* a quarter; a laborer's wages were 1½*d.* a day; a harvest man's, 2*d.* In a blank page of Comestor's Scholastic History, deposited in the British museum, it is stated that this manuscript was taken from the king of France, at the battle of Poictiers. It was afterwards purchased by the earl of Salisbury for a hundred marks, or £66 13*s.* 4*d.* It was directed, by the last will of his countess, to be sold for forty livres. At this time the king's surgeon's pay was £5 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and one shilling a day besides. Master carpenters had four pence a day; their servants two pence. At the beginning of the fourteenth century, some books were bequeathed to Merton college, Oxford, of which the following are the names and valuation. A Scholastic History, twenty shillings; a Concordance, ten shillings; the four greater prophets, with glosses, five shillings; a Psalter, with glosses, ten shillings; St. Austin on Genesis, ten shillings. About the year 1400, a copy of the Roman *de la Rou* was sold before the palace gate, at Paris, for £33 6*s.* 6*d.* The countess of Anjou paid, for a copy of the homilies of Bishop Haiman, two hundred sheep, five quarters of wheat, five quarters of barley, and five quarters of millet. On the conquest of Paris, in 1425, the duke of Bedford sent the royal library to England. It consisted of only eight hundred and fifty-three volumes,

but it was valued at more than two thousand, two hundred pounds sterling. Further facts, of a similar character, will be found in the life of the individual, to which we now proceed.

WILLIAM CAXTON was born in the Weald of Kent, England, about the year 1412. At this period, learning of all kinds was in a much more depressed state in England, than in most of the continental countries, in consequence principally of the civil war in which the nation was embroiled, the habits of restlessness thus produced, and the constant pre-occupation of the time and thoughts of men in promoting the cause they espoused, and in protecting their lives and property. Under these circumstances, the most plain and common education was often neglected. Caxton's parents, however, performed their duty to him. "I am bounden," says he, "to pray for my father and mother, that, in my youth, sent me to school, by which, by the sufferance of God, I get my living, I hope truly." When he was about fifteen or sixteen, he was put apprentice to William Large, a mercer of London, and afterwards mayor. The name *mercer*, was given at this time, to general merchants, trading in all kinds of goods. After he had served his apprenticeship, Caxton took up his freedom in the mercer's company, and became a citizen of London. Some subsequent years he spent in travelling in various countries on the continent of Europe. In 1464, he was appointed ambassador to the court of the duke of Burgundy. During his residence in the Low Countries, he acquired or perfected his knowledge of the French language, gained some knowledge of Flemish or Dutch, imbibed a taste for literature and romance, and, at great expense, made himself master of the art of printing. About 1472, Caxton returned to England, and introduced, in all probability, the art of printing into that country. The common opinion is, that the 'Game of Chess' was the

first book printed by Caxton, though Mr. Dibdin thinks that the 'Romance of Jason' was printed before it. Caxton was most indefatigable in cultivating his art. Besides the labor necessarily attached to his press, he translated not fewer than five thousand closely printed folio pages, though well stricken in years. The productions of his press amount to sixty-four. In 1480, he published his Chronicle, and his Description of Britain, which is usually subjoined to it. These were very popular, having been reprinted four times *in this century*, and seven times in the *sixteenth* century.

"After divers works," says he, "made, translated, and achieved, having no work in hand, I, sitting in my study, where as lay many divers pamphlets and books, it happened that to my hand came a little book, in French, which late was translated out of Latin, by some noble clerk of France, which book is named 'Eneid,' as made in Latin by that noble person and great clerk, Virgil, which book I saw over and read therein. (He then describes the contents.) In which book I had great pleasure, by cause of the fair and honest terms and words, in French, which I never saw tofore like, ne none so pleasant, ne so well ordered; which book as me seemed should be much requisite to noble men to see, as well for the eloquence as histories; and when I had advised me in this said book, I deliberated, and concluded to translate it into English, and forthwith took a pen and ink, and wrote a leaf or twain, which I oversaw again, to correct it; and when I saw the fair and strange terms therein, I doubted that it should not please some gentlemen, which late blamed me, saying, that in my former translations, I had over curious terms, which, could not be understood of common people; and desired me to use old and homely terms in my translations; and fain would I satisfy every man, and so to do, took an old book, and read therein; and certainly the English

was so rude and broad, that I could not well understand it; and also, my Lord Abbot, of Westminster, did do show to me late certain evidences, written in old English, for to reduce it into our English now used; and certainly it was written in such wise, that was more like to Dutch than to English. I could not reduce, nor bring it to be understanden. Certainly the language now used varieth far from that which was used and spoken when I was born; for we, Englishmen, been born under the domination of the moon, which is never at rest, but ever wavering. The most quantity of the people understand not Latin, nor French, in this realm of England."

Caxton seems to have been much puzzled and perplexed about the language he should use in his translations; for, while some advised him to use old and homely terms, others, "honest and great clerks," he adds, "have been with me, and desired me to write the most curious terms that I could find—and thus betwixt plain, rude, and curious, I stand abashed."

Among the books which Caxton published, were two editions of Chaucer's Tales. He seems to have had a veneration for the memory of this poet, and to have formed, with sound judgment and good taste, a most correct and precise estimate of the peculiar merits of his poetry. As a proof of the former we may mention, that Caxton, at his own expense, procured a long epitaph to be written in honor of Chaucer, which was hung on a pillar near the poet's grave, in Westminster Abbey. The following remarks of Caxton show that he was able thoroughly to relish the merits and beauties of Chaucer's poetry.

"We ought to give a singular laud unto that noble and great philosopher, Geoffrey Chaucer, the which, for his ornate writings in our tongue, may well have the name of a laureate poet. For, tofore that he embellished and ornated and made fair our English, in this realm was had rude speech

and incongruous, as yet appeareth by old books, which, at this day, ought not to have place, ne be compared among unto his beauteous volumes and ornate writings, of whom he made many books and treatises of many a noble history, as well in metre as in rhyme and prose; and then so craftily made, *that he comprehended his matters in short, quick, and high sentences, eschewing perplexity; casting away the chaff of superfluity, and showing the picked grain of sentence, uttered by crafty and sugared eloquence.* In all his works he excelleth, in mine opinion, all other writers in our English, for he writeth no void words, but all his matter is full of high and quick sentence, to whom ought to be given laud and praise for his noble making and writing."

Caxton died in 1490–1, was buried in St. Margaret's, and left some books to that church. "His character," says his biographer, "may be collected from the account we have given of his labors. He was possessed of good sense and sound judgment; steady, persevering, active, zealous, and liberal in his services for that important art which he introduced into England; laboring not only as printer, but as translator and editor."

RICHARD BAXTER.

Richard Baxter was born on the 12th of November, 1615, at Rowton, in Shropshire, England. Here he spent, with his grandfather, the first ten years of his life. His father was a freeholder, and possessed of a moderate estate; but having been addicted to gaming in his youth, his property became so deeply involved, that much care and frugality were required to disencumber it at a future period of his life. He became a pious man about the time of the birth of Richard. To him the lad was indebted for his first religious instructions. There must have been in Richard, when a child, some striking indications of religious feeling, for his father remarked to Dr. Bates, that he would even then reprove the improper conduct of other children, to the astonishment of those who heard him. Baxter's early impressions and convictions, though often like the morning cloud and early dew, were never entirely dissipated, but at last fully established themselves in a permanent influence on his character. His early education was very imperfectly conducted. From six to ten years of age, he was under the four successive curates of the parish, two of whom never preached, and the two, who had the most learning of the four, drank themselves to beggary, and then left the place. At the age of ten, he was removed to his father's house, where Sir William

Rogers, a blind old man, was parson. One of his curates, who had succeeded a person who was driven away on being discovered to have officiated under forged orders, was Baxter's principal schoolmaster. This man had been a lawyer's clerk, but hard drinking drove him from that profession, and he turned curate for a piece of bread. He preached only once in Baxter's time, and then was drunk! From such men what instruction could be expected! How wretched must the state of the country have been, when they could be tolerated either as teachers or ministers! His next instructer, who loved him much, he tells us was a grave and eminent man, and expected to be made a bishop. He also, however, disappointed him; for during no less than two years, he never instructed him one hour; but spent his time, for the most part, in talking against the Puritans. In his study, he remembered to have seen no Greek book but the New Testament; the only father was Augustine de Civitate Dei; there were a few common modern English works, and for the most of the year, the priest studied Bishop Andrews' Sermons. Of Mr. John Owen, master of the free school at Wroxeter, he speaks more respectfully. To him he was chiefly indebted for his classical instruction. He seems to have been a respectable man, and under him, Baxter had for his schoolfellows the two sons of Sir Richard Newport, (one of whom became Lord Newport,) and Dr. Richard Allestree, who afterward was Regius professor of divinity at Oxford, and provost of Eton college. When fitted for the university, his master recommended that, instead of being sent to it, he should be put under the tuition of Mr. Richard Wickstead, chaplain to the council at Ludlow, who was allowed by the king to have a single pupil. But he also neglected his trust. The only advantage young Baxter had with him, was the enjoyment of time and books. "Considering the great neglect," says Mr. Orme, his

biographer, "of suitable and regular instruction, which Baxter experienced in his youth, it is wonderful that he ever rose to eminence. Such disadvantages are very rarely altogether conquered. But the strength of his genius, the ardor of his mind, and the power of his religious principles, compensated for minor defects, subdued every difficulty, and bore down, with irresistible energy, every obstacle that had been placed in his way."

During his short residence at Ludlow castle, Baxter made a narrow escape from acquiring a taste for gaming, of which he gives a curious account. The best gamester in the house undertook to teach him to play. The first or second game was so nearly lost by Baxter, that his opponent betted a hundred to one against him, laying down ten shillings to his sixpence. He told him there was no possibility of his winning, but by getting one cast of the dice very often. No sooner was the money down, than Baxter had every cast which he wished; so that before a person could go three or four times round the room, the game was won. This so astonished him that he believed the devil had the command of the dice, and did it to entice him to play; in consequence of which he returned the ten shillings, and resolved never to play more. Whatever may be thought of the fact, or of Baxter's reasoning on it, the result to him was important and beneficial.

On returning from Ludlow castle to his father's house, he found his old schoolmaster, Owen, dying of a consumption. At the request of Lord Newport, he took charge of the school till it should appear whether the master would die or recover. In about a quarter of a year, his death relieved Baxter from this office, and as he had determined to enter the ministry, he placed himself under Mr. Francis Garbet, then minister of Wroxeter, for further instruction in theology. With him he read logic about a month, but was seriously and long interrupted, by symptoms of that

complaint which attended him to his grave. He was attacked by a violent cough, with spitting of blood, and other indications of consumption. The broken state of his health, the irregularity of his teacher, and his want of an university education, materially injured his learning and occasioned lasting regrets. He never acquired any great knowledge of the learned languages. Of Hebrew he scarcely knew anything; his acquaintance with Greek was not profound; and even in Latin, as his works show, he must be regarded by a scholar as little better than a barbarian. Of mathematics he knew nothing and never had a taste for them. Of logic and metaphysics he was a devoted admirer, and to them he dedicated his labor and delight. Definitions and distinctions were in a manner his occupation; the *quod sit*, the *quid sit*, and *quotuplex—modes*, *consequences*, and *adjuncts*, were his vocabulary. He never thought he understood anything till he could anatomize it, and see the parts distinctly; and certainly, very few have handled the knife more dexterously, or to so great an extent. His love of the niceties of metaphysical disquisition plunged him very early into the study of controversial divinity. The schoolmen were the objects of his admiration. Aquinas, Scotus, Durandus, Ockham, and their disciples, were the teachers from whom he acquired no small portion of that acuteness for which he became so distinguished as a disputer, and of that logomachy by which most of his writings are deformed.

"Early education," says Mr. Orme, "exerts a prodigious power over the future pursuits and habits of the individual. Its imperfections or peculiarities will generally appear, if he attempt to make any figure in the literary or scientific world. The advantages of a university or academical education will never be despised, except by him who never enjoyed them, or who affects to be superior to their necessity. It cannot be denied, however, that some

of our eminent men, in all departments and professions, never enjoyed these early advantages."

Among these was Richard Baxter. In answer to a letter of Anthony Wood, inquiring whether he was an Oxonian, he replied with dignified simplicity, "As to myself, my faults are no disgrace to any university, for I was of none; I have little but what I had out of books, and inconsiderable helps of country tutors. Weakness and pain helped me to study how to die; that set me on studying how to live; and that on studying the doctrine from which I must fetch my motives and comforts. Beginning with necessities, I proceeded by degrees, and now am going to see that for which I have lived and studied."

The defects of early education Baxter made up by greater ardor of application and energy of purpose. He never attained the elegant refinements of classical literature, but in all the substantial attainments of sound learning he excelled most of his contemporaries. The regrets which he felt, at an early period, that his scholarship was not more eminent, he thus expresses:

"Thy methods cross my ways; my young desire
To academic glory did aspire.
Fain I'd have sat in such a nurse's lap,
Where I might long have had a sluggard's nap;
Or have been dandled on her reverend knees,
And known by honored titles and degrees;
And there have spent the flower of my days
In soaring in the air of human praise.
Yea, and I thought it needful to *thy* ends,
To make the prejudiced world my friends;
That *so my praise* might go before *thy grace*,
Preparing men thy messages to embrace;
Also my work and office to adorn,
And to avoid profane contempt and scorn.
But these were not thy thoughts; thou didst foresee
That such a course would not be best for me,
Thou mad'st me know that man's contempt and scorn,
Is such a cross as must be daily borne."

The principal scene of Baxter's pastoral labors was Kidderminster. Here he resided about fourteen years, and his labors were attended with remarkable success. "It was a great advantage to me," says Baxter, "that my neighbors were of such a trade, as allowed them time to read or talk of holy things. For the town liveth upon the weaving of Kidderminster stuffs; and as they stand in their looms, the men can set a book before them, or edify one another; whereas ploughmen, and many others, are so wearied, or continually employed, either in the labors or the cares of their callings, that it is a great impediment to their salvation. Freeholders and tradesmen are the strength of religion and civility in the land; and gentlemen and beggars, and servile tenants, are the strength of iniquity. Though among these sorts, there are some also that are good and just, as among the other there are many bad. And their constant converse and traffic with London, doth much promote civility and piety among tradesmen.

"Another furtherance of my work, was the books which I wrote and gave away among them. Of some small books I gave each family one, which came to about eight hundred; and of the larger, I gave fewer; and every family that was poor, and had not a Bible, I gave a Bible to. I had found myself the benefit of reading to be so great, that I could not but think it would be profitable to others.

"God made use of my practice of physic among them also as a very great advantage to my ministry; for they that cared not for their souls, did love their lives, and care for their bodies; and by this, they were made almost as obversant, as a tenant is of his landlord. Sometimes I could see before me in the church, a very considerable part of the congregation, whose lives God had made me a means to save, or to recover their health; and doing it

for nothing, so obliged them that they would readily hear me. Another help to my success, was the small relief which my low estate enabled me to afford the poor; though the place was reckoned at near two hundred pounds per annum, there came but ninety pounds, and sometimes but eighty pounds to me. Beside which, some years I had sixty, or eighty pounds a year of the booksellers for my books; which little dispersed among them, much reconciled them to the doctrine that I taught. I took the aptest of their children from the school, and sent divers of them to the universities; where for eight pounds a year, or ten, at most, by the help of my friends, I maintained them. Some of them are honest, able ministers, now cast out with their brethren; but, two or three having no other way to live, turned great conformists, and are preachers now. In giving the little I had, I did not inquire whether they were good or bad, if they asked relief; for the bad had souls and bodies that needed charity most. And this truth I will speak to the encouragement of the charitable, that what little money I have now by me, I got it almost all, I scarce know how, at that time when I gave most, and since I have had less opportunity of giving, I have had less increase.

"My public preaching met with an attentive, diligent auditory. Having broke over the brunt of the opposition of the rabble before the wars, I found them afterwards tractable and unprejudiced. Before I entered into the ministry, God blessed my private conference to the conversion of some, who remain firm and eminent in holiness to this day; but then, and in the beginning of my ministry, I was wont to number them as jewels; but since then I could not keep any number of them. The congregation was usually full, so that we were fain to build five galleries after my coming thither; the church itself being very capacious, and the most commodious and convenient

that ever I was in. Our private meetings, also, were full. On the Lord's days there was no disorder to be seen in the streets; but you might hear a hundred families singing psalms and repeating sermons as you passed through them. In a word, when I came thither first, there was about one family in a street that worshipped God and called on his name, and when I came away, there were some streets where there was not one poor family in the side that did not so; and that did not by professing serious godliness, give us hopes of their sincerity. And in those families which were the worst, being inns and alehouses, usually some persons in each house did seem to be religious. Though our administration of the Lord's supper was so ordered as displeased many, and the far greater part kept away, we had six hundred that were communicants; of whom there were not twelve that I had not good hopes of as to their sincerity."

In accounting for these signal and blessed effects of his ministry, his biographer remarks with great justice, that "Baxter never spoke like a man who was indifferent whether his audience felt what he said, or considered him in earnest on the subject. His eye, his action, his every word, were expressive of deep and impassioned earnestness, that his hearers might be saved. His was eloquence of the highest order; not the eloquence of nicely selected words,—or the felicitous combination of terms and phrases, —or the music of exquisitely balanced periods, (though these properties are frequently to be found in Baxter's discourses;) but the eloquence of the most important truths, vividly apprehended, and energetically delivered. It was the eloquence of a soul burning with ardent devotion to God, and inspired with the deepest compassion for men; on whom the powers of the worlds of darkness and light, exercised their mighty influence; and spoke through his utterances, all that was tremendous in warning, and all

that was delightful in invitation and love. The gaining of souls to Christ was the only object for which he lived. Hence, amidst the seeming variety of his pursuits and engagements, there was a perfect harmony of design. His ruling and controlling principle was the love of his Master, producing the desire of a full and faithful discharge of his duty, as his approved minister. This was the centre around which every thing moved, and by which every thing in his circumstances and character was attracted or repelled. This gave unity to all his plans, and constituted the moral force of all his actions.

Baxter died December 8, 1691. He left the world in joyful assurance of entering into the Saints' Everlasting Rest. During his sickness, when the question was asked, How he did? his reply was, *Almost well.*

In reviewing the life of this extraordinary man, we see what powerful and numerous difficulties a resolute mind can overcome. Baxter, during his whole life, might be almost said to die daily. Hardly ever was such a mind connected with so frail an earthly lodging place. He was the sport of medical treatment and experiment. At about fourteen years of age he was seized with the small pox, and soon after, by improper exposure to the cold, he was affected by violent catarrh and cough. This was continued for about two years, and was followed by spitting of blood and other phthisical symptoms. One physician prescribed one mode of cure, and another a different one; till, from first to last, he had the advice of no less than thirty-six professors of the healing art. He was diseased literally from head to foot; his stomach acidulous; violent rheumatic headaches; prodigious bleedings at the nose; his blood so thin and acrid that it oozed out from the points of his fingers, and often kept them raw and bloody. His physicians called it hypochondria. He him-

self considered it to be premature old age, so that at twenty he had the symptoms, in addition of disease, of fourscore. He was certainly one of the most diseased and afflicted men that ever reached the ordinary limits of human life. How, in such circumstances, he was capable of making the exertions which he almost incessantly made, appears not a little mysterious.

Baxter lived also in one of the most stormy periods of English history. Men were bound, and in "deaths oft," for conscience' sake. For preaching the truth, as they honestly believed it to be, no less than *two thousand* ministers were on one occasion ejected from their pulpits. Civil wars raged with fearful violence, and many were the men whose hands were imbrued in fraternal blood. Baxter was in all these tumultuous scenes; now in the army of the Protector; now showing his dexterity in logical warfare before councils and synods; now in prison, and now in his pulpit at Kidderminster. In short he lived at the time of Selden, and Milton, and Hampden, and Pym,—at the time of the breaking up of the dark ages, after old systems were overthrown, and when all was in confusion and uncertainty.

Notwithstanding all this, his labors were prodigious. The works of Bishop Hall amount to ten volumes octavo; Lightfoot's extend to thirteen; Jeremy Taylor's to fifteen; Dr. Goodwin's to twenty; Dr. Owen's to twenty-eight; while Richard Baxter's works, if printed in a uniform edition, could not be comprised in less than *sixty* volumes, making at least thirty-five thousand closely printed octavo pages. At the same time, his labors as a minister, and his engagements in the public business of his times, formed his chief employment for many years, so that he speaks of writing but as a kind of recreation from more severe duties. The subjects on which he wrote embrace the whole range of theology, in all the parts of which he

seems to have been nearly equally at home. Doctrinal, practical, casuistical, and polemical, all occupied his thoughts, and engaged his pen.

"His inquiries ranged, and his writings extended from the profoundest and most abstruse speculations on the divine decrees, the constitution of man, and the origin of evil, to the simplest truths adapted to the infant mind. Baxter appears to have read every thing relating to his own profession, and to have remembered all which he read. The fathers and schoolmen, the doctors and reformers of all ages and countries, seem to have been as familiar to him as his native tongue. He rarely makes a parade of his knowledge, but he never fails to convince you that he was well acquainted with most which had been written on the subjects which he discusses."

ARTHUR YOUNG.

THIS celebrated agriculturist was a younger son of the Rev. Arthur Young, D. D., prebendary of Canterbury, and was born on the 17th of March, 1741, at Bradfield Hall, Suffolk, England. Dr. Young, not being able to provide very liberally for his younger children, designed Arthur for trade, and accordingly apprenticed him to a wine merchant, at Lynn, in Norfolk; but the lad having evinced an early attachment to agricultural pursuits, on his father's death, in 1761, returned home, and managed the farm at Bradfield, for the benefit of his widowed mother and her family. He left his maternal roof in 1767, having during his five years' farming kept a register of his experiments, which formed the basis of his 'Course of Experimental Agriculture,' published anonymously in 1770, and which was well received by practical farmers, though it was rather too highly colored. On quitting home he hired a farm in Essex, but after six months' trial, he was obliged to relinquish it for want of funds. He at last fixed himself near North Mimms, in Hertfordshire, where he continued for about nine years, repeating his experiments on lands not very favorable to them, and, like many other ingenious speculatists, losing his money nearly as often as he made the attempt. So warmly, however, was he attached to his favorite pursuits, that he determined to pro-

mote and recommend them by his pen, and before he had completed his thirtieth year, published several works for the improvement of agriculture, particularly his 'Farmer's Letters,' 'Rural Economy,' and 'Tours through the Southern, Northern, and Eastern parts of England;' all of them replete with useful information. During his visit to the North of England, an opportunity was afforded him of rendering essential service to a most extraordinary self-taught agriculturist, in humble life, a miner at Swinton, named James Crofts, who, by the almost incredible devotion of twenty hours a day to hard labor, had, with his own hands, reclaimed ten acres of moor land, on which he kept three milch cows, an heifer, and a galloway. To encourage such a rare instance of industry and application in the lower orders, Mr. Young set on foot a subscription for the benefit of this humble, but most valuable member of society, the produce of which freed him from his subterranean employment, and enabled him to direct his attention exclusively to the improvement of waste lands, an occupation for which he had, under every possible disadvantage, evinced an extraordinary adaptation of untutored genius.

The tour of Mr. Young occupied six months; the information and incidents of which were collected, and published in four octavo volumes. He soon after printed an 'Essay on Swine,' to which the gold medal of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts was awarded. In 1770, he gave to the world a very valuable treatise, called 'The Farmer's Guide in hiring and stocking farms;' and so indefatigable did he pursue his favorite object, that in the summer of 1770, he made his tour through the eastern counties of England, in continuance of his plan, imperfectly as he had then formed it, of an agricultural survey of England. The observations made during this journey were published in May, 1771, and it is no small proof of

their author's industry, that they were printed so soon, as in the course of the year 1770, (half of which at least was spent in travelling,) and of the spring of 1771. In this short period he must have found time to print and publish his 'Farmer's Guide,' in two volumes octavo; his 'Eastern Tour' in four; 'Rural Economy' in one; a second volume of the 'Farmer's Letters;' and a 'Course of Experimental Agriculture,' in two volumes quarto, besides superintending through the press the second edition of his 'Northern Tour,' in four volumes octavo. With so much to do, in so short a space of time, what wonder that Mr. Young should not have performed every thing which he undertook equally well. He wrote his books too fast, and was too prone to substitute speculations for facts. After the death of his mother, he entered on the possession of the family estate, which he continued to cultivate during the remainder of his life. In addition to the works which have been named, he wrote a very sensible pamphlet on the Expediency of a Free Exportation of Corn; Proposals to the Legislature for Numbering the People; Observations on the present state of the Waste Lands of the kingdom; an Essay on the Culture of Cole-seed, for feeding sheep and cattle, for which the gold medal of the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts was, for the second time, awarded him; and a Political Arithmetic. His reputation was soon widely spread abroad. By order of the empress Catharine, his agricultural tours were translated into the Russian language. At the same time, she sent several young Russians to the author, to learn the system of English agriculture, under his immediate superintendence. Prince Potemkin speedily sent two others, and his example was soon followed by the Marquis de la Fayette. Mr. Young's tour through Ireland, published in 1780, and which contains a mass of valuable facts and observations, is characterized by Maria Edgeworth "as the most faith-

ful portrait of the inhabitants of Ireland, to whom it rendered essential service by giving to other nations, and more especially to the English, a more correct notion than they had hitherto entertained of their character, customs, and manners."

In 1784, this indefatigable writer commenced his 'Annals of Agriculture,' a periodical publication, continued monthly until the close of his life, when it amounted to forty-five octavo volumes, forming a rich collection of facts, essays, and communications, on every question of agriculture and political economy. For a long time, however, this work was more laborious than successful, doing little, if anything, beyond paying its expenses, and averaging, when the fifteenth volume was completed, a sale of only three hundred and fifty copies of each number. This want of patronage, the disadvantage of a provincial press, misunderstandings with one publisher, the failure of another, £350 in the editor's debt, and a variety of untoward accidents, not unfrequently falling to the lot of authors and editors, considerably damped Mr. Young's expectations from a work, to which he had looked forward for posthumous reputation. But that reputation was not so long delayed; and with it the sale of his work, and consequently its profits gradually increased. For the information contained in this truly valuable miscellany, he had the honor of receiving the approbation and personal thanks of George III. when he one day met Mr. Young on the terrace at Windsor. So deep an interest did the venerable monarch take in the success of a work, of whose merit no one was more competent to judge, that he shortly after sent its editor some communications, in the form of letters, which were inserted in the Annals, under the signature of Ralph Robinson. In 1787, 1788, and 1789, Mr. Young performed three tours in France, and published the result of his observations in two quarto volumes,

which were favorably received. As a proof of his energy, it is stated that he performed his second journey on the back of a horse, wall-eyed, and well nigh blind, without surtout or saddle-bags, and met, as might be expected from such an equipment for a three months' trip, with several adventures not unworthy the knight-errantry of Hudibras, or Don Quixote to perform, or the genius of Cervantes or Butler to celebrate.

On the formation of the Agricultural Board, Mr. Young became its Secretary, and performed the duties of his office till his death, with great zeal and fidelity. He continued from time to time, to survey several of the counties of England, of which surveys he published detailed reports. To his very last days his attachment to his early pursuits continued; and at the time of his death, he was preparing for the press the result of his agricultural experiments and observations during a period of fifty years.

Mr. Young was a man of strong understanding, of a vigorous mind, and of warm feelings; a most diligent student, yet disposed to think for himself. He was extremely temperate in his habits; ardent and indefatigable in his pursuits; and diligent and laborious in a degree seldom equalled. Through the whole course of his life, he was a very early riser, and continued this practice even after blindness made him dependant on others for the prosecution of his studies. His firmness was great; but to a man of his sanguine disposition, the continual obstruction to his pursuits, produced by his want of sight, (a calamity, which afflicted him after 1811, till his death,) could scarcely have been borne with patience, had it not been for the influences of religion, whose benign operation was never more triumphantly displayed. A most important change in his principles and character, took place in the year 1797; when the death of his youngest daughter, to whom he had been most tenderly attached, first led him

to apply to that only true source of consolation over which the world has no power. During the former fifty-six years of his life, while most subjects of importance had, at one time or other, engaged his attention, the most important of all, religion, had scarcely occupied a thought. He was not, indeed, an avowed skeptic; but his mind was so uninstructed, and his heart so unconcerned, in all that respected religion, that, as he used often afterwards to declare, and deeply to lament, he was little better than a heathen. The diligence with which he thenceforth discharged his official duties, prosecuted his studies, and continued his favorite pursuits was, however, in no degree, abated, but the motive was wholly changed. He was now actuated by a desire to please God, and by a wish, in his fear, to do good to men. A very large proportion of his property was devoted to the relief of the distressed. The poor peasantry around his estate ever looked up to him as a father and a friend. To enable him to give more to the poor, he lived with simplicity and moderation, without ostentation, though with much hospitality, no man having a warmer heart towards his friends, or giving them a kindlier welcome at his cheerful board. His early opposition to the slave-trade evinced that he was a friend to the whole brotherhood of man. He died on the 20th of February, 1820. The disease, which terminated his mortal existence, was an extremely painful one; but in the most excruciating bodily agony, his patience and resignation were exemplarily manifested.

HUMPHREY DAVY.

Humphrey Davy was born in 1778, at Penzance, in Cornwall, England. His father followed the profession of a carver in wood, in that town, where many of his performances are still to be seen in the houses of the inhabitants. All that we are told of Davy's school education is, that he was taught the rudiments of classical learning at a seminary in Truro. He was then placed, by his father, with an apothecary and surgeon in his native place. But instead of attending to his profession, he spent his time, either in rambling about the country, or in experimenting in his master's garret, sometimes to the no small danger of the whole establishment. The physician and Davy at last agreed to part.

When rather more than fourteen years old, he was placed as pupil with another surgeon, residing in Penzance; but it does not appear that his second master had much more success than his first in attempting to give him a liking for the medical profession. The future philosopher, however, had already begun to devote himself, of his own accord, to those sciences in which he afterwards so greatly distinguished himself; and proceeding upon a plan of study which he had laid down for himself, he had, by the time he was eighteen years old, obtained a thorough knowledge of the rudiments of natural philosophy and chemistry,

as well as made some proficiency in botany, anatomy, and geometry. The subject of metaphysics, it is stated, was also embraced in his reading at this period.

But chemistry was the science to which, of all others, he gave himself with the greatest ardor; and, even in this early stage of his researches, he seems to have looked forward to reputation from his labors in this department. "How often," said he, in the latter period of his life, "have I wandered about those rocks in search after new minerals, and, when tired, sat down upon those crags, and exercised my fancy in anticipations of future renown." The peculiar features of this part of the country doubtless contributed not a little to give his genius the direction it took. The mineral riches concealed under the soil formed alone a world of curious investigation. The rocky coast presented a geological structure of inexhaustible interest. Even the various productions cast ashore by the sea, were continually affording new materials of examination to his inquisitive and reflecting mind. The first original experiment, it is related, in which he engaged, had for its object to ascertain the nature of the air contained in the bladders of sea-weed. At this time, he had no other laboratory than what he contrived to furnish for himself, by the assistance of his master's phials and gallipots, the pots and pans used in the kitchen, and such other utensils as accident threw in his way. These he converted, with great ingenuity, to his own purposes. On one occasion, however, he accounted himself particularly fortunate in a prize which he made. This was a case of surgical instruments with which he was presented by the surgeon of a French vessel that had been wrecked on the coast, to whom he had done some kind offices. Examining his treasure with eagerness, Davy soon perceived the valuable aid he might derive in his philosophical experiments from some of the articles. One of the principal of them was,

in no long time, converted into a tolerable air-pump. The proper use of the instruments was, of course, as little thought of by their new possessor as that of his master's gallipots which he was wont to carry up to his garret. Davy's subsequent success as an experimentalist, was owing, in no small degree, to the necessity he was placed under, in his earliest researches, of exercising his skill and ingenuity in this manner. "Had he," remarks his biographer, "been supplied, in the commencement of his career, with all those appliances, which he enjoyed at a later period, it is more than probable that he might have never acquired that wonderful tact of manipulation, that ability of suggesting expedients, and of contriving apparatus so as to meet and surmount the difficulties, which must constantly arise, during the progress of the philosopher through the unbeaten tracks and unexplored regions of science. In this art, Davy certainly stands unrivalled; and, like his prototype, Scheele, he was unquestionably indebted for his address to the circumstances, which have been alluded to. There was never, perhaps, a more striking exemplification of the adage, that "necessity is the parent of invention."

Davy first pursued his chemical studies, without teacher or guide, in the manner which has been described, and aided only by the most scanty and rude apparatus. When still a lad, however, he was fortunate in becoming acquainted with Mr. Gregory Watt, son of the celebrated James Watt. This gentleman, having come to reside at Penzance for the benefit of his health, lodged with Mrs. Davy, and soon discovered the talent of her son. The scientific knowledge of Mr. Watt, gave an accurate direction to the studies of the young chemist, and excited him to a systematic perseverance in his favorite pursuit. He was also providentially introduced to the notice of Mr. Davies Gilbert, since President of the Royal Society.

The boy, we are told, was leaning on the gate of his father's house, when Mr. Gilbert passed, accompanied by some friends, one of whom remarked, that there was young Davy, who was so much attached to chemistry. The mention of chemistry immediately fixed Mr. Gilbert's attention; he entered into conversation with the young man, and, speedily becoming convinced of his extraordinary talents and acquirements, offered him the use of his library, and whatever other assistance he might require for the pursuit of his studies. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Watt, soon after this, introduced Davy to the celebrated Dr. Beddoes, who had just established at Bristol what he called his Pneumatic Institution, for investigating the medical properties of the different gases. Davy, who was now in his nineteenth year, had for some time been thinking of proceeding to Edinburgh, in order to pursue a regular course of medical education; but Dr. Beddoes, who had been greatly struck by different proofs which he had given of his talents, and especially by an essay in which he propounded an original theory of light and heat, having offered him the superintendence of his new institution, he at once accepted the invitation. "The young philosopher," remarks a biographer, "was now fairly entered on his proper path, and, from this period, we may consider him as having escaped from the disadvantages of his early lot. But it was while he was yet poor and unknown, that he made those acquirements, which both obtained for him the notice of his efficient patrons, and fitted him for the situation in which they placed him. His having attracted the attention of Mr. Gilbert, as he stood at his father's gate, may be called a happy incident in the providence of God; but it was one that never would have happened had it not been for the proficiency he had already made in science by his own endeavors. He had this opportunity of emerging from obscurity; but had he

not previously labored in the cultivation of his mind as he had done, it would have been no opportunity at all."

The experiments conducted by Davy, and under his direction, at the Bristol Institution, were soon rewarded by important results; and of these, Davy, when he had just completed his twenty-first year, published an account, under the title of 'Researches Chemical and Philosophical, chiefly concerning Nitrous Oxide, and its respiration.' In this publication, the singularly intoxicating effects produced by the breathing of nitrous oxide, were first announced. This annunciation excited considerable sensation in the scientific world, and at once made Davy generally known as a most ingenious and philosophic experimentalist. He was, in consequence, soon after its appearance, invited to fill the chemical chair of the Royal Institution, then newly established. When he commenced his lectures, he was scarcely twenty-two years of age; but never was success in such an undertaking more marked and gratifying. He soon saw his lecture rooms crowded, day after day, by all that was most distinguished in the rank and intellect of the metropolis; and his striking and beautiful elucidations of every subject that came under his review, rivetted, often to breathlessness, the attention of his splendid auditory. The year after his appointment to this situation he was elected professor of chemistry to the Board of Agriculture; and he greatly distinguished himself by the lectures which for ten successive sessions, he delivered in this character. They were published in 1813, at the request of the Board. In 1806, he was chosen to deliver the Bakerian lecture before the Society; and he performed the same task for several successive years. Many of his most brilliant discoveries were announced in these discourses. In 1812, he received the honor of knighthood from the Prince Regent, being the first person on whom his Royal Highness conferred that

dignity. Two days after, he married a lady of considerable fortune. In 1813, he was elected a corresponding member of the French Institute. He was created a baronet in 1818. In 1820, he was chosen a foreign associate of the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Paris, on the death of the illustrious Watt. He had been, for some time, Secretary of the Royal Society; and on the death of Sir Joseph Banks, in 1820, he was, by an unanimous vote, raised to the presidency of that learned body—an office which he held till he was obliged to retire, on account of ill health, in 1827, when his friend and first patron, Mr. Davies Gilbert, was chosen to succeed him. Little, we may suppose, did either of the two anticipate, when they first met, thirty years before, at the gate of Mrs. Davy, that they would thus stand successively, and in this order, at the head of the most distinguished scientific association in England.

The first memoir by Davy, which was read before the Royal Society, was presented by him in 1801. It announced a new theory, which is now generally received, of the galvanic influence, or the extraordinary effect produced by two metals in contact with each other, when applied to the muscle even of a dead animal, which the Italian professor, Galvani, had discovered. It was supposed both by Galvani and his countryman Volta, who also distinguished himself in the investigation of this curious subject, that the effect in question was an electrical phenomenon—whence galvanism used to be called animal electricity; but Davy showed, by many ingenious experiments, that, in order to produce it, the metals in fact underwent certain chemical changes. Indeed, he proved that the effect followed when only one metal was employed, provided the requisite change was by any means brought about on it, as, for example, by the interposition between two plates of it, of a fluid calculated to act upon its sur-

face in a certain manner. In his Bakerian lecture for 1806, he carried the examination of this subject to a much greater length, and astonished the scientific world by the announcement of a multitude of the most extraordinary results, from the application of the galvanic energy to the composition and decomposition of various chemical substances. From these experiments he arrived at the conclusion, that the power called chemical affinity was in truth identical with that of electricity. Hence the creation of a new science, now commonly known by the name of Electro Chemistry, being that which regards the supposed action of electricity in the production of chemical changes. The discourse, in which these discoveries were unfolded, was crowned by the French Institute with their first prize, by a decision which reflects immortal honor upon that illustrious body; who thus forgot not only all feelings of mutual jealousy, but even the peculiar and extraordinary hostility produced by the war, which then raged between the two countries, in their admiration of genius, and their zeal for the interests of philosophy.

In the interesting and extraordinary nature of its announcements, the Bakerian lecture, of 1807, was as splendid a production as that of the former year. There are certain substances, as the reader is aware, known in chemistry by the name of alkalis, of which potash and soda are the principal. These substances, chemists had hitherto in vain, exhausted their ingenuity, and the resources of their art, in endeavoring to decompose. The only substance possessing alkaline properties, the composition of which had been ascertained, was ammonia, which is a gas, and is therefore called a volatile alkali; and this having been found to be a compound of certain proportions of hydrogen and nitrogen, an opinion generally prevailed that hydrogen would be found to be also a chief ingredient of the *fixed* alkalis. Davy determined, if possible,

to ascertain this point, and engaged in the investigation with great hopes of success, from the surpassing powers of decomposition which he had found to belong to his new agent, the galvanic influence. The manner in which he pursued this object, is among the most interesting specimens of scientific investigation on record. One of the most important of the laws of galvanic decomposition, which he had previously discovered, was, that, when any substance was subjected to this species of action, its oxygen (an ingredient which nearly all substances contain) was developed at what is called the positive end or pole of the current of electricity, while, whenever any hydrogen or inflammable matter was present, it uniformly appeared at the opposite or negative pole. Proceeding upon this principle, therefore, Davy commenced his work with a fixed alkali; and at first submitted it, dissolved in water, to the galvanic action. The result, however, was, that the water alone was decomposed, nothing being disengaged by the experiment but oxygen and hydrogen, the ingredients of that fluid, which passed off as usual, the former at the positive, the latter at the negative pole. In his subsequent experiments, therefore, Davy proceeded without water, employing potash in a state of fusion; and, having guarded the process from every other disturbing cause that presented itself, by a variety of ingenious arrangements, he had at last the satisfaction of seeing the oxygen gas developed, as before, at the positively electrified surface of the alkali, while, at the same time, on the other side, small globules of matter were disengaged, having all the appearances of a metal. The long agitated question was now determined; the base of the fixed alkalis was clearly metallic. To ascertain the qualities of the metallic residue which he had thus obtained from the potash, was Davy's next object. From its great attraction for oxygen, it almost immediately, when exposed to the

atmosphere, became an alkali again, by uniting with that ingredient; and at first it seemed on this account hardly possible to obtain a sufficient quantity of it for examination. But at last Davy thought of pouring over it a thin coating of the mineral fluid called naphtha, which both preserved it from communication with the air, and, being transparent, allowed it to be examined.

But there was another course of investigation, into which this philosopher entered, which resulted in a practical discovery of high importance. This was the contrivance of the *safety lamp*. In coal mines, frequent explosions had been caused by the *fire-damp* or inflammable gas, which is found in many parts of them. By a series of experiments, Davy found that this dangerous gas, which was known to be nothing more than the hydrogen of the chemists, had its explosive tendencies very much restrained by being mixed with a small quantity of carbonic acid, and nitrogen (the ingredient which along with oxygen, forms atmospheric air); and that, moreover, if it did explode, when so mixed, the explosion would not pass through apertures less than one seventh of an inch in diameter. Proceeding, therefore, upon these ascertained facts, he contrived his safety lamp. It consists of a small light, fixed in a cylindrical vessel, which is every where air-tight, except in the bottom, and which is formed of fine wire-gauze, and in the upper part, where there is a chimney for carrying off the foul air. The air admitted through the gauze, suffices to keep up the flame; which, in its combustion, produces enough of carbonic acid and nitrogen to prevent the fire-damp, when inflamed within the cylinder, from communicating the explosion to what is without. The heretofore destructive element, thus caught and detained, is therefore not only rendered harmless, but actually itself helps to furnish the miner with light, the whole of the interior of the cylinder being filled

a steady green flame, arising from the combustion of hydrogen, which has been admitted to contact with ieat, but cannot carry back the inflammation it has re-:d to the general volume without. Armed with this irable protection, therefore, the miner advances without and with sufficient light to enable him to work, into sses which formerly he would not have dared to enter. safety lamp has already been the means of saving y lives, and has enabled extensive mines, or portions of s, to be wrought, which, but for its assistance, must remained unproductive. The coal owners of the ıern districts, in 1817, invited Sir Humphrey to a ic dinner, and presented him with a service of plate ıe value of £2,000, in testimony of what they felt to ıe merit of this invention.

The transformations of chemistry," remarks Mr. John *F*. Herschel, " by which we are enabled to convert the apparently useless materials into important objects in rts, are opening up to us, every day, sources of wealth convenience of which former ages had no idea, and h have been pure gifts of science to man. Every de-nent of art has felt their influence, and new instances ontinually occurring, of the unlimited resources which wonderful science developes in the most sterile parts ıture. Not to mention the impulse which its progress ;iven to a host of other sciences; what strange and pected results has it not brought to light in its appli-n to some of the most common objects! Who, for nce, would have conceived that linen rags were capa-f producing *more than their own weight* of sugar, by imple agency of one of the cheapest and most abun-acids?—that dry bones could be a magazine of nutri-t, capable of preservation for years, and ready to yield ıeir sustenance in the form best adapted to the sup-of life, on the application of that powerful agent,

steam, which enters so largely into all our processes, or of an acid at once cheap and durable?—that saw-dust is susceptible of conversion into a substance bearing no remote analogy to bread; and though certainly less palatable than that of flour, yet no way disagreeable; and both wholesome and digestible, as well as highly nutritive. What economy in all processes where chemical agents are employed, is introduced by the exact knowledge of the proportions in which natural elements unite, and their mutual powers of displacing each other! What perfection in all the arts where fire is employed, either in its more violent applications, (as, for instance in the smelting of metals by the introduction of well-adapted fluxes, whereby we obtain the whole produce of the ore in its purest state,) or in its milder forms, as in sugar refining (the whole modern practice of which depends on a curious and delicate remark of a late eminent scientific chemist on the nice adjustment of temperature at which the crystalization of syrup takes place); and a thousand other arts, which it would be tedious to mention."

We have not space to enumerate many other splendid discoveries of this great philosopher. In 1827, his health had become so poor, that he found it necessary to seek relaxation from his engagements, and accordingly resigned the presidency of the Royal Society. Immediately after this, he proceeded to the continent. During his absence from England, he still continued his chemical researches, the results of which he communicated in several papers to the Royal Society. He also, notwithstanding his increasing weakness and sufferings, employed his leisure in literary composition on other subjects, an evidence of which appeared in his 'Salmonia,' a treatise on fly-fishing, which he published in 1828. This little book is full of just and pleasing descriptions of some of the phenomena of nature, and is imbued with an amiable and contented spirit. His

active mind, indeed, continued, as it would seem, to exert itself to the last, almost with as unwearied ardor as ever. Besides the volume which we have just mentioned, another work, entitled 'The Last Days of a Philosopher,' which he also wrote during this period, has been given to the world since his death. He died at Geneva, on the 30th of May, 1829. He had only arrived in that city the day before; and having been attacked by an apoplexy after he had gone to bed, expired at an early hour in the morning.

"No better evidence," says his biographer, "can be desired than that which we have in the history of Davy, that a long life is not necessary to enable an individual to make extraordinary progress in any intellectual pursuit to which he will devote himself with all his heart and strength. This eminent person was, indeed, early in the arena where he won his distinction; and the fact, as we have already remarked, is a proof how diligently he must have exercised his mental faculties during the few years that elapsed between his boyhood, and his first appearance before the public. Although, during this time, he had scarcely any one to guide his studies, or even to cheer him onward, yet, notwithstanding that, he had taken his place among the known chemists of the age, almost before he was twenty-one. The whole of his brilliant career in that character, embracing so many experiments, so many literary productions, and so many splendid and valuable discoveries, extended only over a space not quite thirty years. He had not completed his fifty-first year when he died. Nor was Davy merely a man of science. His general acquirements were diversified and extensive. He was familiar with the principal continental languages, and wrote his own with an eloquence not usually found in scientific works. All his writings, indeed, show the scholar, and the lover of elegant literature, as well as the ingenious and accomplished philosopher. Like almost all those, who have

greatly distinguished themselves in the world of intellect, he selected his one favorite path, and persevered in it with great energy; while he nevertheless revered wisdom and genius in all their manifestations."

Of the religious opinions and feelings of Sir Humphrey Davy we know very little. The following striking sentence is found in one of his moral works. "I envy," says he, "no quality of the mind or intellect in others; not genius, power, wit, or fancy; but if I could choose what would be most delightful, and I believe most useful to me, I should prefer *a firm religious belief* to every other blessing."

ADAM CLARKE.

e suppose that no one will deny to Dr. Clarke the
n of great and multifarious learning, and of most
nt and unwearied industry in whatever he undertakes.
soundness of his judgment, the clearness of his per-
ons, and the strength of his reasoning powers, may not
very high estimation. The truth of some of the reli-
s doctrines which he maintains, may be questioned in
r of the divisions of the Christian church; yet the high
acteristics of energy, perseverance, supreme devotion
e great object, all will cheerfully unite in awarding to

He is unquestionably the most learned man who
ever been connected with the Methodist Episcopal
ch.

DAM CLARKE was born at Magherafelt, about 30 miles
the city of Londonderry, Ireland, in the year 1763.
father was a member of a respectable English family.
mother was of Scottish descent. Reduced fortunes were
reasons of their removing to Ireland. His parents
: pious and intelligent people. As soon as he could
be taught anything, he was instructed to fear and love
God and Father of all, and to worship him in spirit
truth, through the only Mediator. The religious
ciples, thus early implanted, expanded and strength-
l as he advanced in years. His father being diligently

engaged from day to day in his occupations as a farmer, had not, perhaps, discerned in his son any peculiar predilection for learning. Had this been the case, it is very probable, that he would not have cherished it, but that he would have judged it most prudent to turn the attention of his son towards trade and commerce. Though he was able to have imparted to him a sound and mature education, he withheld the boon in a great measure, partly from his circumstances and prospects in life, and partly because he foresaw that his agricultural cares would too frequently engage his time, as well as divide the attention of his pupil, to too great a degree, to anticipate any early proficiency in learning.

Having designed his son for trade, Mr. Clarke placed him under the care of Mr. Bennett, an extensive linen manufacturer in the neighborhood. The lad had either no power, or no disposition to throw any obstacles in the way of a connection which his father evidently desired, and to which, perhaps, he himself thought he should be able to reconcile himself. But whether he betrayed his aversion to manual labor, or whether he discovered his strong desire for study, it was soon perceived that he was very much dissatisfied. Accordingly, a separation took place between him and his master, alike honorable to all the parties concerned. Mr. Bennett continued till his death, a steady friend and correspondent of Mr. Clarke. About this time the founder of Methodism, the Rev. John Wesley, was active in his inquiries after pious and promising young men, to assist him in the work of the ministry. Adam Clarke was pointed out to him as a youth of promise, by an individual who had become acquainted with his talents. Mr. Wesley had sometime before founded a school at Kingswood, near Bristol, for the education of the sons of preachers. After a short correspondence, young Clarke was sent to this school. Unhappily, the treatment,

which he received from the master was never out of mind. Some have supposed it to have arisen out of a determination on the part of the mind to apply himself to the acquisition of more extensive knowledge than the scanty resources of that seminary contemplated. It was during this trying period, that is said the foundation of that profound acquaintance with the Hebrew language, in which he ultimately attained. As an early age, he took for his motto, 'through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.' Mr Wesley soon after arrived at Kingswood, and the pains and fears of Mr. Clarke were dispersed. That acute observer perceived and estimated the excellence of his pensioned protege, and in a short time adjudged him to be worthy to undertake the duties of an evangelical itinerant. Mr. Clarke entered on his public work in 1782. Several circumstances combined to render him a preacher of the highest popularity among the Methodists, and of the greatest usefulness in extending the influence, and exalting the character of the denomination.

Dr. Clarke has been an example of temperance and persevering industry. 'Rising early, and late taking rest, avoiding all vain of ostentation, and pursuits of mere pleasure and recreation, restricting himself to the most wholesome diet and temperate beverage, and allowing unnecessary intrusion on his time—these have been among the means by which he has at once performed so much important duty, acquired such a store of knowledge, and retained so unusual a portion of sound and vigorous health.' Dr. Clarke applied himself to the study of languages for the purpose of assisting the British and Foreign Bible Society. His principal work is his Commentary on the Old and New Testaments. Whatever may be said of its doctrines, its criticisms, and its interpretations, no one can deny that it

exhibits an uncommon display of ingenuity and industry, and a vast accumulation of learning.

Dr. Clarke now resides at Eastcote, in the vicinity of London. So far as his increasing infirmities and impaired sight will allow, he takes his accustomed share of labor with his brethren. He has an interesting little museum, and an extensive and very valuable library, which is especially rich in oriental literature.

CHARLES G. HAINES.

Charles G. Haines was born at Canterbury, in the State of New Hampshire, about the year 1793. His father was a respectable farmer, in humble circumstances, but endowed with a vigorous mind. His energetic habits of thought doubtless exerted great influence on the mind of his son, by calling its powers into activity at an early age, and thus, in some measure, compensated for the absence of those opportunities of education, which the limited means of the family put beyond their reach. Charles passed the years of his boyhood in his father's house, laboring on the farm in the summer, and attending the village school in the winter. It is probable that this mode of life did not please him, and that a restless spirit induced him to seek some other employment of a less humble character. About the age of fourteen years, he obtained the situation of a clerk in the office of Col. Philip Carrigain, at that time secretary of the State of New Hampshire. While a mere copyist in the office of this gentleman, his desire to be distinguished in every occupation in which he was engaged, showed itself in the acquisition of a beautiful hand-writing—an attainment upon which no intelligent man will place a low estimate. On the appointment of Col. Carrigain to prepare a map of the State, and his consequent resignation of his office of secretary, young

Haines, partly by his own exertions, and partly by the assistance of his friends, prepared himself for college, and was admitted to the institution in Middlebury, Vermont, in 1812. He passed through the usual course with credit, and in 1816, received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In consequence of unremitted application, his health had become feeble, and he was induced to undertake a journey on horseback. On this occasion, he first visited the city of New York. He continued his journey as far as Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania. He returned to Vermont, in much better health, and commenced the study of law in the office of the Hon. Horatio Seymour, of Middlebury. He also engaged in the task of assisting in the editorship of one of the principal political journals of the State, probably from want of other means of subsistence. In 1818, Mr. Haines removed to the city of New York, and entered the law office of Pierre C. Van Wyck, Esq. He soon took an active part in the local politics of the State, and was appointed private secretary to governor Clinton. Yet so great was his address, or so happy was his disposition, that he was beloved by all parties for his generous feelings and polite deportment. During the first year of his residence in New York, Mr. Haines produced a pamphlet, in which he took an elaborate review of the probable expense and advantages of the great western canal. Soon after, he produced a larger work on the same subject, in which he displays great research and industry. After this, he secluded himself almost entirely from society, and applied himself closely to professional studies. Few men labor more assiduously than Mr. Haines did for three years after his admission to the bar, and until attacked by the disease which proved fatal to him. Besides attending to his business as a lawyer, he uniformly devoted three hours in a day to reading law, and spent his nights, till a very late hour, in the study of history and political science. It was

habit to make copious abstracts of the books which he
d, to which he added numerous notes of his own. He
not an exact, practical lawyer. While he was famil-
with the general doctrines of the law, he devoted his
nest attention to questions involving the principles of
federal and state constitutions. It was therefore in
courts of the United States, where all the important
trines regarding our national compact are agitated and
ermined, that Mr. Haines desired to appear. His
lies had a constant tendency to this object. Among
manuscripts, there is a minute analysis of the "Feder-
t," besides several volumes filled with quotations, and
asionally with complete abstracts of works on kindred
jects. The first question in which he was concerned
ore the Supreme Court of the United States, was one
olving the constitutionality of the state bankrupt laws.
its decision depended the fortune of thousands of indi-
uals, and the title to millions of property. Mr. Henry
y and Mr. David B. Ogden, were his senior counsel,
Mr. Webster and Mr. Wheaton were the opposing
nsel. The impression made by Haines on his learned
itors was favorable. The argument for the constitu-
ality of the state bankrupt laws was the fruit of long
laborious preparation. It was afterwards printed, and
s great credit to his industry, learning, and good sense.
legal talents were never fully tested. His early edu-
ion had been hurried and deficient. His powers of
ught had never been tasked by rigorous trains of math-
atical and metaphysical reasoning. His mind had
er been disciplined to that severity and exactness of
ught, which go to form a truly able lawyer. Yet his
ital processes were just, rapid, and vigorous, and even
n competing with men of the highest legal attain-
nts, his previous diligent preparation, made him always
pectable. Mr. Haines was frequently called upon to

address public assemblies upon various topics which for the moment interested the community. He freely lent his aid to the various institutions of charity and reform, giving to them liberally his time, his money, and his labor. In general, he wrote out the substance of his intended speech at length. As the views which he took of his subject were large, his efforts of this kind never disappointed public expectation, and were frequently honorable to his talents, as well as to his good feelings. Among the topics of this nature, on which he wrote and spoke with effect, were "Pauperism," and the "Penitentiary system." His useful exertions for the cause of humanity in relation to these subjects will long be remembered with gratitude.

In the political struggles of the State, Mr. Haines was very active. In 1825, governor Clinton nominated him adjutant general of the militia of the State, an office which he did not live to assume. The labors, in which he was engaged, were too severe for his physical strength. Intense study and continued sedentary habits were gradually making fatal inroads upon a constitution originally good, and which had been sustained thus far by a life of the strictest temperance. His friends often warned him against the effects of midnight study and neglect of exercise, but he used to reply that he did not require any relaxation. Their fears were too soon realized. He lingered till the third of July, 1825, when he expired at the age of thirty-two years. His funeral took place on the sixth of July, and was attended by an immense concourse of citizens.

"His devotion to politics," remarks his biographer, "was almost a passion, and if talent may be estimated by success, he was well adapted for political life. Certain it is, that he seized with uncommon tact upon those circumstances which industry and zeal could render favorable; and as he conciliated every man whom he approached, he

accomplished as much by his personal influence, as by his writings. There was, besides, in him an enthusiasm, which believed nothing impossible; and to such an one, obstacles are toys, and victory a pastime. More than all, and united with all, he possessed an indefatigable, systematic industry, the great secret of all acquisitions. Those who have the originality to conceive great designs, are not found in general, to possess the practical talent of developing their utility, and carrying them into execution. Mr. Haines had the sagacity to seize on the best conceptions of other men, the diligence to gather important facts and circumstances in their support, and the activity and energy to turn them to practical account."

Mr. Haines is a remarkable instance of what the unaided efforts of one man may accomplish. He came to the city of New York, a poor and friendless stranger, and in the short space of seven years, he surrounded himself with numerous and valuable friends, acquired considerable reputation as a scholar, a politician, and a writer, and rose to one of the highest offices in the gift of the state government. His social and private character was exemplary, though his constitutional ardor sometimes triumphed over his judgment.

HENRY CLAY.

In giving some facts in the life of this distinguished individual, we have but one object in view; and that is to show what can be accomplished by native resources of mind, unaided by the fostering care of guides and teachers. Mr. Clay has undoubtedly strong original powers, an intuitive genius, rapid perceptions, and a vigorous imagination. He has also been placed in circumstances which compelled him to act. Still he is a self-taught man. To collegiate discipline, and academic guidance, he is not in the least indebted for his extraordinary attainments. Far beyond many, also, who have educated themselves, he has the graces and delicacies, which are generally acquired only in the halls consecrated to study. He has not only the enthusiasm and wildness of a Kentuckian, but the beauty and gracefulness of classic lands. He has the strong, native sense of a backwoodsman, combined with the amenity and polish which are acquired in the ancient seats of learning. We regard this as a striking and most valuable fact. Mr. Clay will exert, doubtless, considerable influence in future time, and after his death, as a model of oratory. The events of his life, the circumstances in which he has been placed, as well as the native qualities of his mind, naturally point him out as an attractive example for the youthful heart to dwell upon. The generosity, the frankness, the enthusiasm of his character will win

their way, where simple, solid, sterling excellence would find no place. Mr. Clay has been the warm and eloquent advocate of the independence of the new Southern Republics, and of emancipated Greece. With two or three exceptions, he has manifested himself to be superior to local views, and temporary interests, and to be actuated by a high regard for the welfare of the whole country, and of future times.

Henry Clay was born in Hanover County, in the State of Virginia, on the 12th of April, 1777. His father, a clergyman of considerable talent and high respectability, died while Henry was yet a child. At an early age, the lad, having a common school education, was placed in the office of Mr. Tinsley, clerk of the high court of chancery, at Richmond, Virginia. In this situation, he met occasionally with the distinguished men of the State; and at length, by his amiable deportment, and his striking displays of intellect, attracted the attention, and gained the friendship of chancellor Wythe, and governor Brooke, who, by their joint advice, persuaded him, at the age of nineteen, to undertake the study of the law. To this pursuit he applied himself with great industry and ardor. Soon after being admitted to practice, in the twenty-first year of his age, he removed to Lexington, in the State of Kentucky. Instead of entering immediately upon his professional course, he still confined himself to his legal studies, with the determination of making himself thoroughly master of the great principles of law, before he assumed the responsibility of practice. In taking this course, he showed a remarkable indication of good sense and of sound judgment, especially as there were many things in the circumstances of a new country calculated to excite and call forth, prematurely, his distinguished powers. He wisely laid the foundation, deep and broad, on which he was to build his superstructure of reputation and usefulness. Up

to this period, he had never made an effort at public speaking, and was wholly unconscious of his own oratorical powers; although, it is said, that his style of conversation, was universally admired by his associates for its extreme correctness and elegance. The first exhibition of his powers of extemporaneous eloquence was made under peculiar circumstances. Soon after his removal to Lexington, he joined a debating society in that place, but continued, for some weeks, to attend its meetings, without offering to take part in its discussions. On one occasion, however, when the vote on an interesting question, which had been the subject of debate, was about to be taken, Mr. Clay remarked, in a low but audible whisper, that the subject did not appear to him to have been exhausted. This remark was overheard by several of the members, who, from their high opinion of his powers, had long wished to persuade him to participate in the debates of the society, and they addressed the chairman simultaneously, "Do not put the question yet, Mr. Clay will speak." The attention of the society was now, of course, directed to Mr. Clay, who, not having sufficient confidence to resist the appeal, arose under extraordinary embarrassment, and commenced his speech by saying, "*Gentlemen of the jury.*" The members of the society were unwilling to increase his agitation by seeming to take notice of his mistake, and he repeated it several times, in a stammering tone, till, at length, he gradually gained confidence from his own efforts, and, finally, concentrating all his vigorous and disciplined powers upon the subject in debate, he surprised his audience with a beauty and compass of voice, an exuberance of eloquence, and a force of argument worthy of a veteran orator. His reputation as a speaker, was at once established. He immediately became a leading champion in all the debates of the society. It is very evident from this circumstance, that Mr. Clay had well employed his time

previously. He did not depend upon his genius alone, but upon the results of patient reading and consecutive thinking. The Lexington bar was at that time, undoubtedly, the ablest in the western country, consisting of George Nicholas, John Breckinridge, James Brown, James Hughes, William Murray, and other eminent men. Notwithstanding the number, experience, and strength of these competitors, Mr. Clay soon came to be intrusted with more suits than any rival practitioner. Though well acquainted with the law, during the early years of his practice, he was not, in this respect, distinguished beyond some of his competitors. In legal science he had superiors, but, in eloquence and persuasion, none. Though capable of applying the abstract principles of law with great ingenuity and force, his genius was still better adapted to discussions, in which the natural powers of intellect were principally called into exercise. The commencement of Mr. Clay's political life may be dated as far back as the year 1797. The people of Kentucky were about to call a convention to frame a new constitution for the State; and one feature of the plan, which had been submitted to them, was a provision for the final emancipation of the slave population. The strongest prejudices of a majority of the people in every part of the State were arrayed against the measure. Mr. Clay was aware of this fact, but his sentiments and feelings were on the side of emancipation; and, without taking a moment's heed to his popularity, he entered into the defence of his favorite policy, with all the unquenchable ardor of his nature. His vigorous pen was busy in the public journals, and his eloquent voice was raised in almost every assemblage, in favor of the election of men to the convention, who would contend for the extinction of slavery. The struggle was a fierce one; but the advocates of slavery prevailed, and the young champion of liberty and equal rights, who had

made the friends of slavery tremble for their ancient prerogatives, became unpopular on account of the part which he had acted. The true principles of slavery were not then understood. The idea of emancipation was new. It alarmed the prejudices of the multitude, and Mr. Clay's powerful vindications of it, were regarded by many rather as the brilliant but wayward efforts of a young votary of ambition, than as the results of a calm and deliberate conviction of right. But his sincerity in opposing negro servitude has been manifested, with one or two exceptions, in all his public acts. Very frequently when a colored man brought an action at law for his liberty, Mr. Clay volunteered his services as advocate, and, it is said, never failed to obtain a decision in his client's favor.

The subsequent career of Mr. Clay, is well known. He has now, for the third time, a seat in the Senate of the United States. On the first day of his appearance, as a member of the House of Representatives, in 1812, he was appointed speaker by a vote of nearly two to one, over two opposing candidates. To this office he was uniformly re-elected so long as he continued a member. During all this period, including seasons of unprecedented political strife, not one of his decisions was ever reversed, on an appeal from the chair, notwithstanding the energy with which he always exerted his authority. Mr. Clay was one of the commissioners, who negotiated the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain in 1814. He performed the duties of secretary of state, during the administration of Mr. Adams, from 1825 to 1829. He has thus been connected with nearly all the great political questions, which have agitated the people of this country for the last thirty years. Hardly any individual has exerted a more extensive influence. Of some of his public efforts, and of the measures which he has advocated, there are different views, according to the circumstances in

which different individuals may have been placed. No one will deny to him, however, the possession of most distinguished gifts of nature, and of education. We deeply regret that he has sadly tarnished his character by having been repeatedly concerned in duelling. The wretched apologies, which his biographer attempts to make for him, are not deserving the slightest consideration. There is a stain affixed to his character which time will never wash out. As in the instance of Colonel Hamilton, Mr. Clay furnishes a most melancholy proof that conscience, judgment, and all the better feelings of the heart, may be sacrificed on the shrine of honor, or rather of dishonor and cowardice.

We are glad that Mr. Clay has expressed himself so unequivocally and so nobly in behalf of the desolate and outcast Indians and Africans. He thus speaks of the American Colonization Society. "Let us not be disheartened by the little which has been accomplished in the brief space of thirteen years, or by the magnitude and difficulties of the splendid undertaking. In the execution of vast schemes, which affect the happiness and the condition of a large portion of the habitable globe, time is necessary, which, in the estimation of mortals, may appear of long duration, but which, in the eyes of Providence, or in the computation of the periods of national existence, is short and fleeting. How long was it after Romulus and Remus laid the scanty foundations of their little state, within the contracted limits of the peninsula of Italy, before imperial Rome burst forth in all its astonishing splendor—the acknowledged mistress of the world! Ages rolled away before Carthage, and other colonies of the olden time, shone out in all their commercial and military glory. Centuries have elapsed since our forefathers, in the morasses of James river, and on the rock of Plymouth, began the work of founding this republic, yet in its infancy.

Eighteen hundred years have rolled away since the awful sacrifice of our blessed Redeemer upon the mount of Calvary, and more than half mankind continue to deny his mission and his word!

"We may boldly challenge the annals of human nature for the record of any human plan for the melioration of the condition, or the advancement of our race, which promises more unmixed good in comprehensive benevolence than that of the Colonization Society, if carried into full operation. Its benevolent purposes are not confined to the limits of one continent, nor to the prosperity of a solitary race. They embrace the two largest portions of the earth, with the peace and happiness of both descriptions of their present inhabitants and the countless millions of their posterity. The colonists, reared in the bosom of this republic, with a knowledge of the blessings which liberty imparts, although now unable to share them, will carry a recollection of them to benighted Africa, and light up, in time, her immense territory. And may we not indulge the hope, that, in a period of time, not surpassing in duration that of our own colonial and national existence, we shall behold a confederation of republican states, on the western shores of Africa, with their congress and their annual legislatures, thundering forth in behalf of the rights of man, and causing tyrants to tremble on their thrones. Confiding in the approving judgment of Divine Providence, and conscious of the benevolence and purity of our intentions, we may fearlessly advance in our great work. And when we shall, as soon we must, be translated from this into another existence, is the hope presumptuous, that we shall then behold the common Father of the white and the black, the Ruler of the universe, cast His all-seeing eye upon civilized and regenerated Africa—its cultivated fields—its coasts studded with numerous cities, and adorned with temples dedicated to the religion of His

Redeeming Son—its far famed Niger, and all its great rivers lined with flourishing villages, and navigated by that wonderful power which American genius first applied; and that, after dwelling with satisfaction upon the glorious spectacle, he will deign to look with approbation upon us, His humble instruments, who have contributed to produce it."

CARSTEN NIEBUHR.

Carsten Niebuhr was born, on the 17th of March, 1733, in Hadeln, then belonging to the province of Friesland, Denmark, but since united with the kingdom of Hanover, Germany. He lost his mother before he was six weeks old. He grew up under the care of a step-mother in his father's house, where his way of life and employments, as well as his education, were those common to the peasant boys of his country. It was, probably, owing to his own eager desire for knowledge, that his father was induced, only with a view of his being somewhat better instructed than a common peasant, to send him to the grammar school in Otterndorf, whence he afterwards went to that at Altenbruch. But the removal of the schoolmaster of the place, and the prejudices of the guardians, (for his father had died in the interval,) put an end to his school-studies before he had gone far enough even to have them sufficiently impressed on his memory, to be of any service to him, when he afterwards resumed them. The division of his father's property between the surviving children, had left him, instead of the farm which had been so long the hereditary possession of the family, only a very small capital, quite inadequate to the purchase of any land for himself; and necessity would have led him to acquire knowledge, as a means of subsistence, even if he had been of a

character to endure to live without education, and without employment. He was obliged, however, to content himself with such accomplishments as were attainable without school-learning; he, therefore, for a year, pursued music with great zeal, and learned to play on several instruments with a view to earn his living as an organist. As this employment, likewise, did not meet the approbation of his guardians, his maternal uncle took him home to his own house, where he passed about four years, during which his life was once more completely that of a peasant. The older he grew, however, the less could he endure the void and dulness of this way of life, which can only be relieved, either, as in old times, by a share in the general deliberation on the affairs of the community, and by cheerfulness and merriment, or, as is the case with the English farmer, by a participation in the advantages of education and literary amusement. He felt an irresistible impulse to learn, to employ himself, and to render himself generally useful.

The providential circumstances which determine the course of life of distinguished men, deserve to be remembered. In the highest degree providential was that which gave to Niebuhr the direction which he thenceforth followed, until it led him to become one of the most eminent travellers of modern times. A law suit had arisen concerning the superficial contents of a farm, which could only be decided by measurement, and as there was no land surveyor in Hadeln, the parties were obliged to send for one to another place. Niebuhr felt for the honor of his native district with all the warmth of old times, and this occurrence appeared to him disgraceful to it. He could now fulfil a duty towards his country by learning the neglected art, which at the same time, furnished him with an occupation and an object such as he desired. Learning that instruction in practical geometry was to be had in Bremen, he

immediately, on arriving at age, repaired to that city. This plan was frustrated; the teacher upon whom he depended was dead; but he did not disdain the instructions of a humble practitioner of the art. He, however, would be obliged to lodge and board in his house, and here the bashful, strictly decorous, and self-distrusting young peasant, found two town-bred young ladies, sisters of his intended teacher, whose attentions appeared to him so singular that he quickly took his departure. He now turned his eyes towards Hamburgh, but there he was destined again to experience disappointment, and to have his perseverance put to the test.

He had passed his two and twentieth year when he went to Hamburgh to avail himself of Succow's instructions in mathematics, and, without any false shame on account of his age, to begin his school-studies anew, his income was not sufficient to maintain him even with that rigid economy which was natural to him. He determined, however, to spend just so much of his small capital as would enable him to accomplish his end. He arrived at Hamburgh in the summer of the year, 1755. But just at this time, Succow was called to Jena; the mathematical chair was not filled till Büsch was appointed to it. The severest application to private instruction was, therefore, necessary to make the lessons at the gymanasium (or public school) intelligible or profitable to him. A countryman of his, named Witke, who, at that time, lived at Hamburgh as candidate for holy orders, and who afterwards died at Otterndorf, where he was pastor, gave him this private instruction with true cordiality and friendship. Niebuhr always spoke of him as the person who laid the foundation of his education, and, as such, honored and loved him, with sincere affection. Notwithstanding his uncommon exertions, and the strength both of his body and mind, twenty months (eight of which were passed in merely

preparatory studies, for the Latin tongue was almost entirely unknown to him) were quite insufficient for one, who began to learn so late in life, to acquire that amount of knowledge, which more favored youths bring with them to the university. Among other things thus unavoidably neglected was Greek, of which he always greatly lamented the want. Under Büsch he had begun to learn mathematics. He was the earliest and most distinguished of all his pupils, and in subsequent life, became his most intimate friend. To stop in the middle of any undertaking was thoroughly repugnant to his whole character. He had gone to Hamburgh solely with a view to acquire a knowledge of geometry, and of some things commonly taught in the schools; but as soon as he had become acquainted with the sciences, he could not rest till he was able to embrace them in all their extent and depth. In the spring of 1757, he repaired to Göttingen. The mathematics continued to be his favorite study. He was now more than ever compelled, by the diminution of his little substance, to aim at some employment by which he could maintain himself, and to which his studies would lead. This he now looked to in the Hanoverian engineer corps, in which (as was the case in nearly the whole military service of Germany) men of efficient mathematical attainments were extremely rare. There he might hope to obtain by merit, a competent support. He studied with the steadiness which a fixed, simple, and prudent plan of life ensures, from the spring of 1757, for more than a year, undisturbed by the war, which frequently raged around Göttingen. At this time he recollected that an endowment, or fund for exhibitions, existed at this university, and begged his friend to ascertain whether it was only for poor students in the strict sense of the term; or whether it was endowed without that limitation, "as a means of persevering in the study of something useful and impor-

tant. In this case alone could he allow himself to apply for it." He received it and appropriated it entirely to the purchase of instruments.

At this period, Frederick the Fifth reigned in Denmark in enviable tranquillity. Louis the Fourteenth's memory still shone throughout Europe, with all that false glitter, which had hung around his name, during his life, and he was well known to be the model after which the ministers of the Danish monarch, endeavored, as far as it was compatible with the character of a peaceful king, to form their sovereign. Seldom, however, have the aims of ministers been less liable to reproach than were those of the then baron J. H. E. Bernstorf; and among all the statesmen of the continent, there was not, perhaps, one of his time, so well informed, so noble minded, and so intelligent. The extraordinary and beneficent qualities and endowments of the second count Bernstorf, will be remembered by a grateful nation, since what he effected remains indestructible, and forms the sole basis for future reforms and improvements. Posterity will perhaps mention, as among the noblest actions of his uncle, J. H. E. Bernstorf, the emancipation of his serfs, or the slaves of the soil; the leisure, which he insured to Klopstock, and the scientific expedition which he sent into Arabia. This enterprise was originally owing to Michaelis, who had represented to the minister of state that many elucidations of the Old Testament might be obtained by personal observation and inquiry in Arabia, which might be regarded as hitherto untrodden by European feet. The original idea in the mind of the author extended no farther than this; that a single traveller, an oriental scholar out of his own school, should be sent by way of India to Yemen; a plan which would then have caused the undertaking to end in nothing, even supposing the traveller ever to have found his way back. Happily Bernstorf immediately perceived the de-

fectiveness of the plan, and replied to it by a proposal to render the mission far more extensive in objects and outfit. As Bernstorf took up the project with all the vivacity and liberality for which he was so remarkable, and fully empowered Michaelis to propose an oriental scholar to him, it might have been expected that Michaelis would have named the man who, among all his contemporaries, was unrivalled for his knowledge of the Arabic language, and, as all Germany knew, was fighting inch by inch with starvation,—Reiske,—whom, moreover, Michaelis had known from the time he was at school. But instead of Reiske, he recommended a pupil of his own, Von Haren, whose acquirements must, at that time, have been those of a mere school-boy, since a two years' residence at Rome, (whither he went to prepare himself under the Maronites,) and even the journey itself, never raised them above the meanest mediocrity. Michaelis was also commissioned by Bernstorf to propose the mathematicians and natural historians. For the choice of these men, Michaelis applied to Kästner, one of the Göttingen Society of Sciences, of which he was then director. A student of Hanover, Bölzing, at first accepted the proposal, but after a short time withdrew his promise. Kästner next proposed Niebuhr. One day in the summer of 1758, on his way from a meeting of the Society, to which he had just proposed Niebuhr, he walked into his room. "Have you a mind to go to Arabia," said he. "Why not, if any body will pay my expenses," answered Niebuhr, whom nothing bound to his home, and who had an unbounded desire for seeing the world. "The king of Denmark," replied Kästner, "will pay your expenses." He then explained the project and its origin. Niebuhr's resolution was taken in a moment, so far as his own inclination was concerned. But as he thought very humbly of himself, and most reverentially of science and of the truly instructed, he de-

spaired of his own ability and power of being useful. On this head, however, Kästner set him at ease by the promise of a long term of preparation, which he might employ chiefly under Mayer, in astronomy, and by the assurance that, with his determined industry and perseverance, the allotted time would be fully sufficient. The same evening, Niebuhr, who wanted nothing to fix his resolution but Mayer's promise to instruct him in astronomy, called on the philosopher. Mayer, who was not so sanguine a man as Kästner, cautioned him against a determination which, with his character, would be irrevocable; while he knew not the dangers and fatigues, which he was about to brave. He, however, promised the desired instruction. Michaelis, whom he visited the following day, probably saw that there was levity and precipitation in so prompt a resolution, and pressed upon him to delay a week to reconsider the matter. It passed, but Niebuhr did not trouble himself with any further deliberation on a subject upon which his mind was already thoroughly resolved, and Michaelis now regarded the engagement as definitively accepted. His conditions were, a year and a half for preparation; and during this period, the same salary as Von Haven received. Bernstorf assented to this arrangement without the slightest hesitation. Niebuhr now lived solely for his object. He pursued his studies in pure mathematics, perfected himself in drawing, and sought to acquire such historical information as was attainable with that degree of learning which he had so lately and so imperfectly acquired, without neglecting his more immediate objects. He cultivated practical mechanics, with a view of acquiring greater dexterity in handling his instruments, and in various manual operations, the acquirement and practice of which in Europe, except for those whose business they are, is but a waste of time. His attention was, however, principally occupied by the private lessons of Michaelis in the Arabic language,

and of Mi . These he remembered with very different feelings. For the grammatical study of languages in general he had but little talent or inclination. At the end of a few months he gave up this course of instruction.

Tobias Mayer was undoubtedly one of the first astronomers and mathematicians of his time. The results of his labors consist principally of a catalogue of 992 stars, and his famous lunar and solar tables. His valuable theory of the moon, and the laborious calculation of these tables, together with the invention of Hadley's quadrant, in 1731, enabled Maskelyne to bring into general use the method of discovering the longitude by observing the distance of the moon from the sun, and certain fixed stars, called the lunar method. Mayer's zeal for teaching his pupil was as great as Niebuhr's for learning of him. Among all the men with whom he became acquainted in the course of his long life, there was none whom he so loved and honored as Mayer; and the most intimate friendship subsisted between them. He retained an ardent attachment to Mayer's memory up to most advanced age, and he hardly ever received from Provid e any greater gratification than that of hearir tl first l observations reached his beloved teacl (ed, before consciousness had left him, ch ed and animated his last moments; and tl these observations had decided the giving the English premium, o d for the discovery of the longitude, to the widow of t wh he felt that he was indebted fo a tl ranch of science. Mayer, on t, had no earnest solicitude than to educ a pupil who wo ly his method of determining the lo tude, and , at that time, unprinted lunar tables, which N de a copy. Mayer interested himself outfit of Ni s journey, so entirely as if it been his own affair,

that he divided his quadrants with his own hands. The accuracy of this labor of friendship was proved by the observations which were made with it. About the time of commencing his journey, Niebuhr was appointed lieutenant of engineers, a circumstance which only deserves notice for the sake of a letter which places his modesty and judgment in the most amiable light. "He was," as he wrote to a friend, "led to think of a title for himself, by Von Haven's appointment to a professorship in the university of Copenhagen. A similar one had been offered to him, but he held himself unworthy of it. The one which he had received, appeared to him more suitable. He might have had that of captain, if he had asked for it; but that, for a young man, would have been too much. As a lieutenant, it would be highly creditable to him to make valuable observations; but as professor, he should feel it disgraceful not to have sufficiently explored the depths of mathematical science." He had at that time no other plan than that of living in his native country, after the accomplishment of his mission, on the pension which was assigned to him.

The party consisted of Von Haven, already mentioned; Forskaal, in many respects, eminently qualified for the undertaking; Cramer, a physician, a most unfortunate choice; Bauernfeind, a draughtsman, a respectable artist, but intemperate; and Niebuhr. On the 10th of March, 1761, the travellers left the Elsineur roads for the Mediterranean. The voyage was a pleasant one to Niebuhr. He endeavored to make himself acquainted with the construction of the ship, and he exercised himself daily in nautical and astronomical observations, which procured him the satisfaction of being regarded by the officers as an active and useful member of their company. Mayer, in the instructions which he gave to Niebuhr, had constantly kept in view that his pupil would be placed in situations

which it would be absolutely necessary for him to be
e to rely upon himself, and where he could not hope
the slightest assistance or support. He had taught
i entirely himself, and encouraged him with the assur-
e that an active and clear-sighted man is generally
e to discover means to overcome the obstacles which
r oppose him. His method of teaching, which was
irely practical, was chiefly this. He first described to
pupil the object of the observation and the method of
ng the instruments. He then left him without any
istance, to try how far he could proceed in his observa-
i and calculation, and desired him to tell him, when he
ne to any insurmountable difficulty. He was obliged
describe exactly how far he had gone on well, and
ere his progress had been stopped, and then Mayer
isted him.

A stay of some weeks at Marseilles, and of a shorter
e at Malta, procured a very agreeable recreation to the
ty. The scientific enterprize was known throughout
rope, and we should find it difficult now, to picture to
selves the universal interest in its success, which en-
ed to the travellers the most cordial reception and the
st respectful attentions. It was an enterprize conso-
it with the spirit of the times, and in no manner
tary or strange. Asia was become an object of interest
Europeans, from the war, which the two great mari-
e powers were then waging in India. England began
send out ships to circumnavigate the globe. It was
t that period of general satisfaction and delight in
ence and literature, in which mankind believed that
y had found the road that must inevitably lead to rapid
ances in knowledge and improvements; men of letters
oyed great consideration; and the interest of science
l of its followers were generally regarded as among the
st important in which mankind could be engaged.

From Malta, the expedition proceeded to the Dardanelles. In the Archipelago, Niebuhr was attacked with the dysentery, and was near dying. He recovered his health at Constantinople, but so slowly, that at the expiration of two months from the beginning of his illness, he had scarcely made sufficient progress to go on board a vessel bound for Alexandria, without manifest danger. In Egypt, the party remained a whole year, in which time Niebuhr, in company with Von Haven, and Forskaal, visited Mount Sinai. During their stay in Egypt, Niebuhr determined the longitude of Alexandria, Kahira, Raschid, and Damietta, by means of numerous lunar observations, with an accuracy, which the astronomers of Bonaparte's expedition, to their great surprise, found fully equal to their own. The following is the description of the outfit of himself and his companions for their expedition to Mount Sinai. "We had made careful provision for every thing which we thought necessary for the journey before us. We had abundance of eatables, a tent, and beds. Most of the utensils carried on expeditions in these countries, have been described and drawn by other travellers; and indeed some of them are so convenient, that they might be introduced into European armies with signal advantage. Our little kitchen apparatus was of copper, well tinned inside and outside. Our butter we carried in a sort of pitcher, made of thick leather. Table cloths we did not want. A large round piece of leather was our table. This had iron rings attached to its edge, through which a cord was passed. After dinner it was drawn up, slung over a camel, and thus served the double office of a table and a bag. Our coffee cups (saucers we had none) were carried in a wooden box covered with leather, and wax candles in a similar box, enclosed in a leathern bag. In the lid of this box was a tube, which was our candlestick. Salt, pepper, and spice, we also kept in

a little wooden box, with several lids screwed one over another. Instead of glasses we had little copper cups, beautifully tinned within and without. Our lanthorns were of linen, and could be folded together like the little paper lanthorns which children make in Europe, only that ours had covers and bottoms of iron. Each of us was furnished with a water pitcher of thick leather, out of which we drank; and as we sometimes found no water for two or three days, we carried a good many goat skins filled with it. We also took two large stone water jars with us, that we might be able to carry water ourselves on the journey from Suez to Djidda. Our wine we kept in large glass flasks, each holding twenty of our bottles. These vessels appeared to us the best for the purpose: but when a camel falls, or runs against another with his load, they easily break, and therefore goat skins are better for the purpose. The hides, which are used to contain water, have the hair on the outside; but those for wine have it on the inside, and are so well pitched, that the liquor acquires no bad taste."

In this journey, Niebuhr made astronomical and geographical observations as often as possible. Out of these laborious investigations grew the chart of the Red sea, which, considering the circumstances under which it was made, was a masterly work. Von Haven died about the end of May, 1763. Niebuhr was again attacked by dysentery, and was saved only by the greatest care and temperance. The climate and numerous annoyances which Forskaal had partly brought upon himself, and partly aggravated through his caprice, brought on a bilious disorder, of which he died at Jerim, on the 11th of July, 1763. Mokha, situated in the arid desert of Tehama, is, during summer, a horrible residence, and but few days elapsed before the surviving travellers and their servant were attacked with the fever of the climate. Bauern-

feind and the servant, died at sea. Cramer reached Bombay, languished for some months, and died. *Niebuhr was saved by that extreme abstemiousness which renders a tropical climate as little dangerous to the Europeans as to natives.* While he was laboring under the dysentery, the physician had told him to abstain from meat, and to eat nothing but bread and a sort of rice soup. This regimen cured his illness. At the end of several weeks, the physician learned with astonishment, that Niebuhr was patiently continuing a diet by means of which few Europeans could be induced to purchase their lives, even when laboring under dangerous illness. The reception which Niebuhr met with from the English at Bombay, was extremely cordial. In Egypt he had first learned to delight in the society of Englishmen; and there was laid the foundation for that mutual attachment which ever after continued uninterrupted. There he learned the English language. He also made a copy of his journal, and sent it through London to Denmark. After a stay of fourteen months he left Bombay, visited Mascat, and made himself acquainted with the state of the remarkable province of Oman. He then proceeded to Shiraz and Persepolis. The last night of his journey to Persepolis was perfectly sleepless. The picture of these ruins remained during his whole life indelibly engraven on his mind. They appeared to him the crown and glory of all which he had seen. He passed between three and four weeks amidst them in the desert, in unremitting labor, measuring and drawing the fragments. From Shiraz he crossed the Persian gulf to Bassora. In Persia he collected historical documents concerning the fate of this unfortunate country, from the death of Nadir Shah up to his own times. From Bassora he proceeded through Bagdad and Mosul to Haleb. He was now perfectly at home; since he had been alone, he had been at liberty to conform,

without molestation, to oriental manners and customs. He was also in as good health as at any period of his life. An opportunity of going to Jaffa tempted him to visit Palestine. After that, he explored Lesser Asia, and reached Constantinople, on the 20th of February, 1767. After having spent five months in that city, he passed over Turkey in Europe to Poland, and in November reached Copenhagen. He was received by the court, by the ministers, and by the men of science, with the greatest distinction. Bernstorf, particularly, loaded him with marks of his esteem. The whole expense of the expedition was but £3,780 sterling. It would necessarily have been much greater had not Niebuhr been the sole survivor for nearly the whole of the last four years; but although the sources of expense were thus greatly diminished, they were still more so by his scrupulous integrity; not only in avoiding every outlay not essential to the object, but in paying out of his private pocket for every thing which could be regarded as a personal expense. He was now employed for some time in arranging his materials and preparing his journal for publication. He met in this undertaking with almost innumerable difficulties, owing to his want of an early literary education, to his extreme modesty, to the removal of his patron, Count Bernstorf, and to the unprovoked hostility of some of the literati of the country. In 1773, he was married to a daughter of the physician, Blumenberg. They had two children, a daughter, and B. G. Niebuhr, the illustrious author of the most learned and valuable history of Rome which has been written.

Niebuhr soon took up his abode at Meldorf, having had the office of secretary of the district given to him by the government. A part of his time was employed on his farm. He also found great satisfaction in the company of Boie, the governor of the district. Meanwhile his chil-

dren grew to an age to require instruction. This he gave them himself. "He instructed both of us," says his son, "in geography, and related to us many passages of history. He taught me English and French; better, at any rate, than they would have been taught by any one else in such a place; and something of mathematics, in which he would have proceeded much farther, had not want of zeal and desire in me unfortunately destroyed all his pleasure in the occupation. One thing was indeed characteristic of his whole system of teaching; as he had no idea how any one could have knowledge of any kind placed before him, and not seize it with the greatest delight and avidity, and hold to it with the steadiest perseverance, he became disinclined to teach, whenever we appeared inattentive or reluctant to learn. As the first instructions I received in Latin before I had the happiness to become a scholar of the learned and excellent Jäger, were very defective; he helped me, and read with me Cæsar's Commentaries. Here, again, the peculiar bent of his mind showed itself; he always called my attention much more strongly to the geography than to the history. The map of ancient Gaul by D'Anville, for whom he had the greatest reverence, always lay before us. I was obliged to look out every place as it occurred, and to tell its exact situation. His instructions had no pretension to be grammatical;—his knowledge of the language, so far as it went, was gained entirely by reading, and by looking at it as a whole. He was of opinion that a man did not deserve to learn what he had not principally worked out for himself; and that a teacher should be only a helper to assist the pupil out of otherwise inexplicable difficulties. From these causes his attempts to teach me Arabic, when he had already not that facility in speaking it without which it is impossible to dispense with grammatical instruction, to his disappointment and my shame, did not succeed. When I after-

wards taught it myself, and sent him translations from it, he was greatly delighted. I have the most lively recollections of many descriptions of the structure of the universe, and accounts of eastern countries, which he used to tell me, instead of fairy tales, when he took me on his knee before I went to bed. I recollect too, that on the Christmas eve of my tenth year, by way of making the day one of peculiar solemnity and rejoicing to me, he went to a beautiful chest, containing his manuscripts, which was regarded by us children, and indeed by the whole household, as a sort of ark of the covenant, took out the papers relating to Africa, and read to me from them. He had taught me to draw maps, and with his encouragement and assistance I soon produced maps of Habbesh and Sudan. I could not make him a more welcome birth-day present, than a sketch of the geography of eastern countries, or translations from voyages and travels, executed as might be expected from a child. He had originally no stronger desire than that I might be his successor as a traveller in the East. But the influence of a very tender and anxious mother, upon my physical training and constitution, thwarted his plan almost as soon as it was formed. In consequence of her opposition, my father afterwards gave up all thoughts of it."

Niebuhr had the satisfaction to find that his merits as a traveller were more and more appreciated. His works were very popular in England. The crown prince of Denmark also showed him distinguished favor. In 1802, he was appointed foreign member of the French National Institute. In his various labors he was indefatigable. In his 71st and 72d years, he toiled through a great part of the night. Nor did his indefatigable zeal relax even when his eyes began to fail. The consequences of this night-work were irremediable and fatal. In a short time he could no longer see to read, and for writing he required

an extraordinary quantity of light, and even then the lines were often intermingled. His wife, after many years of suffering, died in 1807. His daughter, and the widowed sister of his wife, who had lived with the family for twelve years, could now devote themselves wholly to rendering him the assistance of which he stood in so much need. Every thing was read aloud to him. The conversation of Gloyer, his successor as secretary of the district, revived to his mind's eye many a faded or vanished picture of the East, and the books which this invaluable friend read aloud to him, and the circumstances, which he related, put him in possession of the works and statements of more recent travellers. This was without comparison one of his highest enjoyments. "When I related to him," says his son, "the descriptions of any traveller newly returned from the East, or gave him in my letters any accounts of travels not known on the continent, his whole being seemed reanimated, and he dictated answers, which showed that his mental vision was vivid and powerful as ever. It was still more remarkable that these new facts imprinted themselves on his mind with all the depth and sharpness with which objects are stamped on a youthful memory, and so remained up to the time of his death. He combined them with what he had himself observed and experienced.

"In the autumn of 1814," continues his son, "his appearance was calculated to leave a delightful picture in the mind. All his features, as well as his extinguished eyes, were the expression of the extreme and exhausted old age of an extraordinarily robust nature;—it was impossible to behold a more venerable sight. So venerable was it, that a Cossack who entered, an unbidden guest, into the chamber where he sat with his silver locks uncovered, was so struck with it, that he manifested the greatest reverence for him, and a sincere and cordial interest for the

whole household. His sweetness of temper was unalterable, though he often expressed his desire to go to his final home, since all which he had desired to live for had been accomplished. A numerous, and as yet unbroken family circle was assembled around him, and every day in which he was not assailed by some peculiar indisposition, he conversed with cheerfulness and cordial enjoyment on the happy change which had taken place in public affairs. We found it very delightful to engage him in continued recitals of his travels, which he now related with peculiar fulness and vivacity. In this manner he spoke once, and in great detail, of Persepolis, and described the walls on which he had found the inscriptions and bas-reliefs, exactly as one would describe those of a building visited within a few days and familiarly known. We could not conceal our astonishment. He replied, that as he lay in bed, all visible objects shut out, the pictures of what he had beheld in the East continually floated before his mind's eye, so that it was no wonder he could speak of them as if he had seen them yesterday. With like vividness was the deep intense sky of Asia, with its brilliant and twinkling host of stars which he had so often gazed at by night, or its lofty vault of blue by day, reflected, in the hours of stillness and darkness, on his inmost soul; and this was his greatest enjoyment."

Towards evening, on the 26th of April, 1815, some one read to him as usual, while he asked questions which showed perfect apprehension and intelligence. He then sunk into a slumber and departed without a struggle. A concourse of people from all parts of the country attended his body to the grave. The funeral was solemnized with all the honors which respect and affection can pay. He had attained the age of eighty-two. He was extremely frugal. Economy had become a habit with him in early life. As a peasant lad he drank nothing but water and milk; and

at a later period he deviated from this simple diet, only in compliance with the custom of others, with which he every where made it a rule to conform, and he then drank an extremely small quantity of wine. He had no favorite dishes but the peasant fare of his native land. "At the highest point of elevation," says his biographer, "to which he attained, favored by his prince, respected and admired by the learned and eminent of all countries, it was his pride that he was born a peasant of Free Friesland. His manners never lost the simplicity, nor his morals the purity of that singular and estimable class of men. If ever there lived a man who might safely and reasonably be held up to the people as an object of imitation, it was Carsten Niebuhr. Not only was he a poor man,—an orphan,—born in a remote part of a remote province, far from all those facilities for acquiring knowledge, which in this age and country are poured out before the feet of the people; he was not even gifted in any extraordinary way by nature. He was in no sense of the word a *genius*. He had no imagination. His power of acquiring does not seem to have been extraordinarily rapid, nor his memory singularly retentive. In all cases where the force of that will, at once steady and ardent, which enabled him to master his favorite studies, was not brought to bear, his progress was slow and inconsiderable. It is not therefore in any supposed intellectual advantages that we must look for the causes of his rise to eminence. They are to be found rather in the moral qualities which distinguished him, qualities attainable in a greater or less degree by men of the humblest rank, of the most lowly intellect, the least favored by situation or connection. He possessed, in an eminent degree, the distinguishing virtues of his country, sincerity, unadulterated and faithful love of truth, and honesty. The zeal with which he gave himself to a pursuit which might enable him to be useful to his native

district; the total absence of vanity which characterized the whole course of his studies and of his journeyings;—the simplicity of his narrative, in which no more of himself and his individual feelings appears than is just necessary to keep up the thread of the story;—the rigorous accuracy and anxiety after truth for which his travels have ever been and still remain pre-eminently distinguished among all who preceeded, and all who have followed him on the same ground, afford ample evidence of the singleness and the steadiness of the motives which actuated him. The punctilious honor which marked his disbursement of the funds intrusted to his care by the Danish government;—the exactness with which he abstained from applying a farthing of this money to any object which could be considered by others, or which his own more fastidious delicacy could regard, as a personal gratification.

"His self-command was perfect. He could abstain from what was agreeable, and do what was disagreeable to him. He was conscientious, sober, temperate even to abstemiousness, laborious and persevering; neither discouraged nor elated by the incidents which he must have known were inseparable from the career which he had chosen."

JAMES FERGUSON.

James Ferguson was born in the year 1710, a few miles from the village of Keith, in Banffshire, Scotland. His parents, as he informs us, were in the humblest condition of life, (his father being merely a day-laborer,) honest and religious. It was his father's practice to teach his children himself to read and write, as they successively reached what he deemed the proper age; but James was too impatient to wait till his regular turn came. While his father was teaching one of his elder brothers, James was secretly occupied in listening to what was going on; and, as soon as he was left alone, used to get hold of the book, and labor diligently in endeavoring to master the lesson which he had thus gone over. Being ashamed, as he says, to let his father know in what manner he was engaged, he was accustomed to apply to an old woman, who lived in a neighboring cottage, to solve his difficulties. In this way he actually learned to read tolerably well before his father had any suspicion that he knew his letters. His father, at last, very much to his surprise, detected him, one day, reading by himself, and thus discovered his secret. When he was about seven or eight years of age, a simple incident occurred, which seems to have given his mind its first bias to what became afterwards its favorite kind of pursuit. The roof of the

cottage having partly fallen in, his father, in order to raise it again, applied a beam to it, resting on a prop in the manner of a lever, and was thus enabled, with comparative ease, to produce what seemed to his son quite a stupendous effect. This circumstance set our young philosopher thinking; and after a while it occurred to him that his father, in using the beam, had applied his strength to its extremity, and this, he immediately concluded, was an important circumstance in the matter. He proceeded to verify his notion by experiment; and having made several levers which he called bars, soon not only found that he was right in his conjecture, as to the importance of applying the moving force at the point most distant from the fulcrum, but discovered the rule or law of the machine, namely, that the effect of any form or weight made to bear upon it, is always exactly proportioned to the distance of the point on which it rests from the fulcrum. "I then," says he, "thought that it was a great pity, that by means of this bar, a weight could be raised but a very little way. On this, I soon imagined that by pulling round a wheel, the weight might be raised to any height, by tying a rope to the weight, and winding a rope round the axle of the wheel; and that the power gained must be just as great as the wheel was broader than the axle was thick; and found it to be exactly so, by hanging one weight to a rope put round the wheel, and another to the rope that coiled round the axle." The child had thus, it will be observed, actually discovered two of the most important elementary truths in mechanics—the lever, and the wheel and axle; he afterwards hit upon others; and, all the while, he had not only possessed neither book nor teacher to assist him, but was without any other tools than a simple turning lathe of his father's, and a little knife wherewith to fashion his blocks and wheels, and the other con-

trivances which he needed for his experiments. After having made his discoveries, however, he next, he tells us, proceeded to write an account of them; thinking his little work, which contained sketches of the different machines drawn with a pen, to be the first treatise ever composed of the sort. When, some time after, a gentleman showed him the whole in a printed book, although he found that he had been anticipated in his inventions, he was much pleased, as he was well entitled to be, on thus perceiving that his unaided genius had already carried him so far into what was acknowledged to be the region of true philosophy. Ferguson was employed in some of his early years as a keeper of sheep, in the employment of a small farmer in the neighborhood of his native place. He was sent to this occupation, he tells us, as being of a weak body; and while his flock was feeding around him, he used to busy himself in making models of mills, spinning wheels, &c. during the day, and in studying the stars at night, like his predecessors of Chaldea. When a little older, he went into the service of another farmer, a respectable man called James Glashan, whose name well deserves to be remembered. After the labors of the day, young Ferguson used to go at night to the fields, with a blanket about him and a lighted candle, and there, laying himself down on his back, pursued for long hours, his observations on the heavenly bodies. "I used to stretch," says he, "a thread with small beads on it, at arms-length, between my eye and the stars; sliding the beads upon it, till they hid such and such stars from my eye, in order to take their apparent distances from one another; and then laying a thread down on the paper, I marked the stars thereon by the beads. My master at first laughed at me; but when I explained my meaning to him, he encouraged me to go on; and, that I might make fair copies in the

day time of what I had done in the night, he often worked for me himself. I shall always have a respect for the memory of that man."

Having been employed by his master to carry a message to Mr. Gilchrist, the minister of Keith, he took with him the drawings he had been making, and showed them to that gentleman. Mr. Gilchrist upon this put a map into his hands, and having supplied him with compasses, ruler, pens, ink, and paper, desired him to take it home with him, and bring back a copy of it. "For this pleasant employment," says he, "my master gave me more time than I could reasonably expect; and often took the threshing flail out of my hands, and worked himself, while I sat by him in the barn, busy with my compasses, ruler, and pen." Having finished his map, Ferguson carried it to Mr. Gilchrist's, and there he met Mr. Grant, of Achoynamey, who offered to take him into his house, and make his butler give him lessons. "I told Squire Grant," says he, "that I should rejoice to be at his house, as soon as the time was expired for which I was engaged with my present master. He very politely offered to put one in my place, but this I declined." When the period in question arrived, accordingly he went to Mr. Grant's, being now in his twentieth year. Here he found both a good friend and a very extraordinary man, in Cantley the butler, who had first fixed his attention, by a sun dial, which he happened to be engaged in painting, on the village school house, as Ferguson was passing along the road, on his second visit to Mr. Gilchrist. Dialling, however, was only one of the many accomplishments of this learned butler, who, Ferguson assures us, was profoundly conversant both with arithmetic and mathematics, played on every known musical instrument except the harp, understood Latin, French, and Greek, and could also prescribe for diseases. These multifarious attainments he owed entirely to him-

self, and to the God of nature. From this person Ferguson received instructions in decimal fractions and algebra, having already made himself master of vulgar arithmetic, by the assistance of books. Just as he was about, however, to begin geometry, Cantley left his place for another in the establishment of the Earl of Fife, and his pupil thereupon determined to return home to his father. Cantley, on parting with him, had made him a present of a copy of Gordon's Geographical Grammar. The book contains a description of an artificial globe, which is not, however, illustrated by any figure. Nevertheless, "from this description," says Ferguson, "I made a globe in three weeks at my father's house, having turned the ball thereof out of a piece of wood; which ball I covered with paper, and delineated a map of the world upon it; made the meridian ring and horizon of wood, covered them with paper, and graduated them; and was happy to find that by my globe, which was the first I ever saw, I could solve the problems."

For some time after this, he was very unfortunate. Finding that it would not do to remain idle at home, he engaged in the service of a miller in the neighborhood, who, feeling, probably, that he could trust to the honesty and capacity of his servant, soon began to spend all his own time in the ale-house, and to leave poor Ferguson at home, not only with every thing to do, but with very frequently nothing to eat. A little oat-meal, mixed with cold water, was often, he tells us, all he was allowed. Yet in this situation he remained a year, and then returned to his father's house, very much weaker for his want of food. His next master was a Dr. Young, who having induced him to enter his service by a promise to instruct him in medicine, not only broke his engagement as to this point, but used him in other respects so tyrannically, that, although engaged for half a year, he found he

could not remain beyond the first quarter, at the expiration of which, accordingly, he came away without receiving any wages, having "wrought for the last fortnight," says he, "as much as possible, with one hand, and even when I could not lift the other from my side." This was in consequence of a severe hurt he had received, to which the doctor was too busy to attend, and by which he was confined to his bed two months after his return home. Reduced as he was, however, by exhaustion and actual pain, he could not be idle. "In order," says he, "to amuse myself in this low state, I made a wooden clock, the frame of which was also of wood, and it kept time pretty well. The bell on which the hammer struck the hours, was the neck of a broken bottle." A short time after this, when he had recovered his health, he gave a still more extraordinary proof of his ingenuity, and the fertility of his resources for mechanical invention, by actually constructing a time-piece, or watch, moved by a spring. "Having then," he remarks, "no idea how any time-piece could go but by a weight and a line, I wondered how a watch could go in all positions; and was sorry that I never thought of asking Mr. Cantley, who could have very easily informed me. But happening one day to see a gentleman ride by my father's house, (which was close by a public road,) I asked him what o'clock it then was? He looked at his watch and told me. As he did that with so much good nature, I begged of him to show me the inside of the watch; and though he was an entire stranger, he immediately opened the watch, and put it into my hands. I saw the spring box, with part of the chain round it; and asked him what it was that made the box turn round? He told me that it was turned round by a steel-spring within it. Having then never seen any other spring than that of my father's gun-locks, I asked how a spring within a box, could turn the box so often round as to wind all

the chain upon it? He answered that the spring was long and thin; that one end of it was fastened to the axis of the box, and the other end to the inside of the box; that the axis was fixed, and the box was loose upon it. I told him that I did not yet thoroughly understand the matter. 'Well my lad,' says he, 'take a long, thin piece of whale-bone; hold one end of it fast between your finger and thumb, and wind it round your finger; it will then endeavor to unwind itself; and if you fix the other end of it to the inside of a small hoop, and leave it to itself, it will turn the hoop round and round, and wind up a thread tied to the outside of the hoop.' I thanked the gentleman, and told him that I understood the thing very well. I then tried to make a watch with wooden wheels, and made the spring of whalebone; but found that I could not make the wheel go when the balance was put on; because the teeth of the wheels were rather too weak to bear the force of a spring sufficient to move the balance; although the wheels would run fast enough when the balance was taken off. I enclosed the whole in a wooden case, very little larger than a breakfast tea cup; but a clumsy neighbor one day looking at my watch, happened to let it fall, and turning hastily about to pick it up, set his foot upon it, and crushed it all to pieces; which so provoked my father, that he was almost ready to beat the man, and discouraged me so much, that I never attempted to make another such machine again, especially as I was thoroughly convinced I could never make one that would be of any real use."

"What a vivid picture is this," says his biographer, in the Library of Entertaining Knowledge, "of an ingenious mind thirsting for knowledge! and who is there, too, that does not envy the pleasure that must have been felt by the courteous and intelligent stranger by whom the young mechanician was carried over his first great difficulty, if he had ever chanced to learn how greatly his

unknown questioner had profited from their brief interview! That stranger might probably have read the above narrative, as given to the world by Ferguson, after the talents, which this little incident probably contributed to develope, had raised him from his obscurity to a distinguished place among the philosphers of his age; and if he did not know this, he must have felt that encouragement in well doing which a benevolent man may always gather, either from the positive effects of acts of kindness upon others, or their influence upon his own heart. Civility, charity, generosity, may sometimes meet an ill return, but *one* person must be benefitted by their exercise; the kind heart has its own abundant reward, whatever be the gratitude or ingratitude of others. The case of Ferguson shows that the seed does not always fall on an unkindly soil."

Ferguson lived for many years in Edinburgh, engaged in drawing pictures, and in various astronomical pursuits. Among other things, he discovered by himself the cause of eclipses, and drew up a scheme for showing the motions and places of the sun and moon in the ecliptic on each day of the year, perpetually. He also made an orrery, without ever having seen the internal construction of any one. In the course of his life he made eight orreries, the last six of which were all unlike each other. Having written a proof of a new astronomical truth which had occurred to him, namely, that the moon must move always in a path concave to the sun, he showed his proposition and its demonstration to Mr. Folkes, the president of the Royal Society of London, who thereupon took him the same evening to the meeting of that learned body. This had the effect of bringing him immediately into notice. He soon after published his first work, 'A Dissertation on the Phenomena of the Harvest Moon,' with the description of a new orrery, having four wheels. It was followed

by various other publications, most of which became very popular. In 1748, he began to give public lectures. Among his occasional auditors was George III., then a boy. In 1763, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the usual fees being remitted, as had been done in the cases of Newton and Thomas Simpson. He died in 1776, having acquired a distinguished reputation both at home and abroad.